

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Cops Spy on Baths

Mayor Won't Apologize for Covert Mission

Gay Reaction Muted as Feinstein Withholds 'Hot,' Secret Report

by Brian Jones

Mayor Dianne Feinstein has no apologies for ordering police into bathhouses on a secret mission to observe and report on Gay men having sex.

The mayor is steadfastly refusing to release the report to the public — even though dozens of people in the Police Department and City Hall have read, or had read to them, the more sensational passages of the confidential document.

"The fact is, we must come to grips with the current situation in which a city licenses facilities that enable the spread of this dreadful disease," Feinstein said in a prepared statement on Monday. The mayor refused a request for an interview on the bathhouse mission. On Friday, Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Feinstein would confront the issue through the prepared statement.

But the statement (see separate box) in fact skirted the answers most Gay leaders said

they wanted to know:

• How extensive was the po-

lice surveillance of the bath-

houses?

- Who were the officers involved? Sources in City Hall said no Gay officers were used in the operation — raising the question of how accurate, and how sensitive to Gay values, the investigation was.

- Which bathhouses were the subject of the covert mission?

- How was the operation carried out? Did officers pose as patrons? Were closed rooms entered by deception? To what extent was the privacy of patrons intruded upon by officers, who presumably were posing as customers?

Bathhouse owners reacted with outrage — but the criticism of most other Gay leaders was muted. Some notable Gays apologized for the mayor, even before she issued the June 4 statement in which she refused to apologize for herself.

Sal Accardi, head of the Northern California Bathhouse Owners Association, said, "1984 has arrived and Big Sister is peeping. It is utterly absurd and shocking that the mayor of San Francisco authorized a confidential police intelligence report on the baths in order to under-

'La Cage' Benefit

Carr Snubs Gays; Stars Don't Show

Smiles Hide Tensions Between Producer and SF Organizers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bay Area Reporter correspondent Allen White was media advisor for the *La Cage aux Folles* benefit preview on May 29. The benefit seemed to go off without a hitch — but that doesn't tell the whole story. Here, we take a look at what was simmering outside the spotlights' glare.

by Allen White

It may have been internalized homophobia, misunderstanding, or just bad communications, but whatever the reason, it seemed as if Allan Carr wanted to sabotage the benefit preview of his *La Cage aux Folles* last week at the Golden Gate Theatre. Incident after incident began piling up on the Cable Car Awards board, which sponsored the event, as the pressures built toward the Tuesday evening performance.

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Bathhouse owners at City Hall: (l. to r.) Dale Bentley (8th and Howard), Sal Accardi (Watergarden), Bill Jones (Sutro), and Glenn Gerber (Ritch St.). (Photo: Rink)

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Gay couple on a Gay evening at *La Cage* Gala at City Hall rotunda. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Gay power touted at Harvey Milk Club dinner for Demo candidates — Wayne Friday P. 11

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'La Cage aux Folles' benefit raises money and eyebrows with show in street and theater — Allen White p. 22

handedly spy on the totally legal and private acts of consenting adults."

The bathhouse owners called on Gay Supervisor Harry Britt to introduce a resolution of conscience in the Board of Supervisors condemning Feinstein's action as "an unprecedented attack against the privacy of the citizens of San Francisco." Britt

was out of town all week.

Bill Jones, owner of the just-closed Sutro Baths, scoffed at the mayor's handling of the disclosure. "She's the one who stamped it confidential. Now she says she can't show the report because it's confidential — I love that trick," Jones said.

(Continued on page 5)

Proposed City Ordinance

No More Sex at the Baths

Privacy Prohibited, Sex Outlawed in Measure Making Rounds at City Hall

by Brian Jones

The lights go up, the doors come off, and sex between men in the traditional Gay sense is strictly forbidden, under the terms of the proposed bathhouse sex ban ordinance which circulated in City Hall last week.

The ordinance is still cloaked in secrecy and delayed by negotiations between the City Attorney, the Department of Public Health, and the office of Mayor Dianne Feinstein.

But the *Bay Area Reporter* last week obtained a copy of the initial draft of the sex-ban ordinance, dated May 1 and reportedly authored, at least in part, by openly Gay Police Department attorney Lawrence Wilson.

(Continued on page 4)

Gay Writer Arthur Bell Dies

Arthur Bell, the colorful and outspoken Gay journalist for the *Village Voice* in New York, died in Manhattan on June 2. He had been ill for some time with a foot infection that would not heal because of diabetic complications and which finally got out of control. Cause of death was septic shock. He was 51.

by Arthur Evans

Arthur Bell was my lover for six years, and my friend for twenty. We met in New York in the spring of 1964 when he was a publicist for a book publisher. In July 1969, while walking along Christopher Street, we were approached by a thin young man with long hair who handed us a leaflet. It announced that a new Gay organization, the Gay Liberation Front, had sprung into existence as a result of riots that had occurred a few days earlier at a local Gay bar called the Stonewall. We went to a meeting of this new Gay group and our lives were changed forever.

ciled). Arthur wrote of these disillusionments in his first book, *Dancing the Gay Lib Blues*, published in 1971.

Arthur became a staff writer and columnist for the *Village Voice*, the first truly upfront Gay person to flourish in the American straight media. From his vantage point at the *Voice*, he wrote sharp, funny, sometimes nasty articles on anything that caught his interest, from cocktail parties to murders. Mostly, though, Arthur wrote about movies, the great joy of his life from the time he was a determined teenage autograph hunter.



There we met for the first time large numbers of men and women who were proud of being Gay, angry at homophobia, and determined to make some changes in the world. Although initially swept up by the excitement of these ideas, we both eventually became disenchanted as the group bogged down in ideological hair-splitting.

So Arthur and I joined with some other friends we met in the group — primarily Jim Owles and Marty Robinson — and started a new action-oriented organization, The Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), which took off like lightning, turning the Gay world in New York upside down and sending shock waves throughout the nation's other Gay communities.

In effect, Arthur gave up his career as a publicist for Random House and threw himself into the role of media promoter for GAA. I abandoned my graduate study in philosophy at Columbia and plugged away at planning and carrying out "zaps" — militant, but nonviolent, confrontations with notable homophobes.

Those were heady days for both of us, as we faced demonstrations, riots, sit-ins, and arrests. Arthur was usually the one to see that this political theater paid off: He knew how to manipulate the media to get the word out at the right time in the right way. It was the dawning of a new age, and we were in our glory.

But there's only so much you can do with zaps and riots, and Arthur started to get bored. He tired of the unending power trips then being played out within GAA. In addition, our relationship as lovers deteriorated and then ended on very bad terms (although we were later recon-

Arthur never lost his sense of Gay identity and Gay pride, even after years of functioning in the media's straight peer-group pressure. Whenever he went to a news conference or covered a news event, he let everyone know someone with a Gay perspective was taking notes. No homophobe ever escaped his wrath or his wit.

His talent as an outstanding investigator and fine writer was shown in his second book, *Kings Don't Mean a Thing* (1978), a study of the murder of a closeted Philadelphia man, John Knight, heir of the Knight-Riddler newspaper fortune.

Arthur suffered from a severe case of diabetes which struck him as a child, and every day of his life he had to inject himself with insulin and be extremely careful with his diet. As he grew older, his body had ever greater difficulty in healing from wounds, and he began to lose his sight. Although, for most of his life, he had been embarrassed about having this disease, he finally came to terms by writing about it openly in a compelling and deeply personal account for the *Voice*.

Arthur was quite capable of being brash and downright obnoxious in print and otherwise, yet he was in fact a very sensitive soul. At times, looking out at the mad worlds of politics, movies, and sex, he seemed to me like a bewildered child. But he greatly dreaded looking vulnerable.

Arthur Bell was special to the Gay movement because he was a fighter for our rights from the era of Stonewall, and he never lost faith. And he was special to me because he was my first great love. Both the movement and my life are diminished without him. ■

California Has Hart But Mondale Has More Delegates

Gay and Lesbian Voters' Choices Are Winners

by Wayne Friday

Former Vice President Walter Mondale all but sewed up the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday with huge wins in New Jersey and West Virginia. Despite Gary Hart's impressive win in California, United Press International now shows Mondale only 15 delegates short of the 1,967 needed for a first ballot win at next month's San Francisco convention.

CITY AND STATE DECISIONS

In San Francisco voting Tuesday, there were few surprises: Propositions A (Employee Benefit Formula), C (Firefighter Longevity Pay), G (Retirement Managers Exemption), and I (Reduce Board of Supes) all went down to defeat, while propositions B (Police Night Pay), F (Water Department Financing), H (Reorganization of Recorder's Office), and K (Park Shadow Ban) all won voter approval.

Of the statewide propositions, Prop. 24, the so-called Gann Initiative, which would reduce the Speaker's powers in the Assembly, lost in San Francisco, but passed handily statewide.

Incumbent Municipal Court (#1) Judge Al Wollenberg, the only contested judge, won easily, defeating challenger Jonathan McCurdy by a 71% to 29% vote.

In the race for convention delegates, Gay and Lesbian voters did well with Harry Britt (Hart) and Connie O'Connor (Hart) winning delegate seats in the 5th Congressional District, while Toklas president Sal Rosselli (Mondale) was elected an alternate. In the 6th District, former Milk president Gwen Craig was elected as a Hart delegate to the convention.

In Democratic County Cen-

tral Committee races, Gays also scored well with Cleve Jones, Jack Trujillo, and Connie O'Connor being elected in the 16th A.D., while Louise Minnick, Ron Huberman, Carole Migden, and Catherine Dodd won seats in the 17th.

In the 3rd State Senate race, Democrat Lia Belli won the right to oppose Republican Milton Marks in November.

In the 19th Assembly Republican race where former Concerned Republicans president Bob Bacci was running, he was defeated by conservative Robert Silvestri, who will oppose incumbent Democrat Louis Papan in November.

Former Supervisor Lee Dolson, a Republican, won the dubious honor of opposing Speaker Willie Brown in the 17th A.D., while Assemblyman Art Agnos will be opposed in the fall election by Republican Max Woods, a perennial candidate.

In the congressional races, Tom Spinoza, San Francisco's answer to Harold Stassen, will face Representative Sale Burton in the 5th District, while incumbent Congresswoman Barbara Boxer will be contested in November by Republican Douglas Binderup.

In Republican Central Committee races, Gary Myerscough and Kevin Wadsworth won seats in the 16th Assembly District, while Bob Bacci kept his seat in the 19th A.D. ■

Initiative to Close Straight Sex Clubs

As the city prepares public hearings on regulations to ban sex in Gay bathhouses, a Gay newspaper writer is launching a retaliatory strike against sex in straight bathhouses.

Bay Area Reporter free lance writer Dion Sanders will file with the Registrar of Voters at 10 a.m. Friday, a notice of intent to circulate petitions for a November ballot initiative. The initiative, if approved by voters, would prohibit sexual activity in bathhouses, saunas, hot tubs and massage parlors frequented by heterosexuals in order to stem the spread of herpes.

"If Gay people cannot engage in bathhouse sex, then neither can straights," Sanders said. By not including heterosexual

establishments in his Gay sex ban, Dr. Mervyn Silverman's proposed regulations violate the city's Gay Rights Ordinance," Sanders said.

The Sanders Initiative would direct the Department of Public Health to enforce the ban.

"The fact is that while there are 4,500 confirmed cases of AIDS in the United States at last report, there are more than 1,000 times that many confirmed cases of herpes — 4.5 million people," Sanders said.

While acknowledging that herpes is "rarely, if ever, fatal," it is especially dangerous to pregnant women. "Herpes has been known to cause birth defects," Sanders, who has herpes, said.

"But I must tell you in all honesty that the real objective in my initiative is to force the city to comply with the Gay Rights Ordinance," he said.

"I want to make it clear that I am opposed to any ban on bathhouse sex. But if one has to be imposed, then, under San Francisco Ordinance, Article 33, it must apply to all bathhouses — straight as well as Gay, or else it is illegal," Sanders said.

Article 33 prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. "I will not sit idly by and see only Gay sex subject to restrictions. I will not permit a double standard which will allow heterosexual bathhouse patrons to get away scot-free while Gay bathhouse patrons are restricted," Sanders vowed. ■

New Media Director for National Gay Task Force

Ron Najman, a publicist with 10 years experience in the news divisions of ABC, CBS, and NBC, has been named Media Director of the National Gay Task Force, the nation's largest Gay civil rights organization.

In making the announcement, Virginia M. Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, said, "We are very pleased to fill this important position with someone who

has years of experience in network news and numerous contacts in the major print media. His hiring represents a significant step for NGTF, because we will be better able to reach into an area that has often eluded us — the main sources of news and information for society at large."

Najman was Director of News Information for NBC, in charge of press relations for NBC News programs and per-

sonnel, from February 1980 to June 1983. Prior to that, he was Manager of Information Services for CBS News from August 1978 to January 1980. He entered the broadcast journalism field as Manager of Public Relations for ABC News in August 1974, a post he held until going to CBS. His first position in broadcasting was as a press representative for ABC.

Najman was an assistant editor of *Saturday Review* from February 1972 to May 1973, where he wrote and edited columns on a variety of subjects. He is a graduate of Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and a native of New York City, where he resides. ■

Dignity Makes Joyous Move to St. Boniface

by Allen White

More than 400 people last Sunday celebrated the move of Dignity to St. Boniface Church in downtown San Francisco. The mass presided over by a priest of the Roman Catholic Church brought together Gay men and Lesbians in a church setting that simply, yet firmly, made a statement belittling the bitter theological arguments which have divided Gays and leaders of the Roman Catholic Church.

Dignity is a large organization of Gay men and Lesbians who have been demanding a piece of the action in the Catholic Church. By invitation of the

pastor, Father Robert Pfisterer, the organization chose to make this their new church home at Golden Gate near Jones in San Francisco.



St. Boniface Church is the new home of Dignity. (Photo: Rink)

The first service last Sunday was casual in presentation. At times it resembled a dress rehearsal. In religious significance, on the other hand, there was no question this was the real thing.

Ministers at St. Boniface expected a crowd of possibly 150 people. To their amazement, the numbers passed the 400 mark and it was believed the pews might fill to their capacity of 600.

In many ways the mass was like any other Catholic church service. People arrived, dipped fingers in holy water, prayed, knelt before the cross and meditated as the organist played a soft Bach prelude. There were announcements for potluck dinners and study groups, and a pitch for raffle tickets.

Gay Catholics don't raffle cars, they raffle money. In this case, the raffle was for the \$1,000 prize money to be given away next Sunday at the Castro Street Dog Show.

As the service began it became obvious that this service was not business as usual either for Dignity or for St. Boniface. The outstanding distinction was the singing. The sounds bounced off the walls as the worshippers expressed their joyous enthusiasm in music. There was no sense of overplayed emotion, yet the many smiles expressed the excitement and thrill of the move to the new church.

At 5:30, June 10, Dignity will present their official celebration in their new church home. The service coincides with Pentecost Sunday, traditionally regarded as the "birthday" of Christianity. The musical instrumentation for the event will include trumpets, drums, organ, glockenspiels, guitars, and tambourines.

UC Nursing Students Oppose Closing Baths by 41 Margin

Opposition to efforts to close Gay bathhouses has come from an unexpected source: nursing students at the University of California-San Francisco medical center.

By a four-to-one margin, nursing students said any city measure to close Gay bathhouses as a response to the AIDS epidemic would be a mistake. The polling followed a debate between two Gay speakers.

"It should be an individual decision; freedom of choice. Bathhouses should be used to provide information. Prohibition doesn't work . . . it's what you do," were some of the "most popular answers" filled in by the students on opinion questionnaires, according to the organizers of the debate.

The polling was done among 32 nursing students who attended a debate May 24 between long-time Gay activist Larry Littlejohn, who argued to close the baths, and Bay Area Reporter Associate Editor Brian Jones, who argued to keep them open.

Entrance and exit polling indicated a significant share of the audience was swayed by the debate. Before the arguments, 56% opposed closing the baths, 41% were in favor and one student was undecided.

Following the debate, 78% of the class — 18 students — opposed closing the baths and 19% were unsure.

of the class — 6 students — said the baths should be closed. There remained one undecided student.

"Popular answers" among the students who supported closing the baths included, "Bathhouses are conducive to 'fast-lane' activity; because AIDS is such a devastating disease and there is a correlation between 'fast-lane' activity and disease spread. Bathhouses promote more numerous contacts."

In April, when closing the bathhouses was first suggested by Public Health Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman, the *San Francisco Examiner's* Sunday edition polled general citizens — and a subset of self-identified Gay respondents — on the bathhouse issue.

That poll indicated 37% wanted to close the Gay baths and sex clubs, 43% wanted city measures to ban sex, 14% wanted no city interference, and 6% were unsure.

Some Gay activists criticized the *Examiner* poll because it had two categories for taking action against bathhouses — but only one category for keeping the baths free of government intrusion.

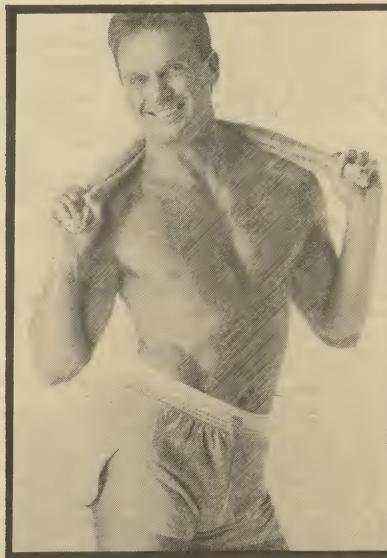
Among 132 Gay respondents, the *Examiner* poll indicated that 18% wanted to close the baths, 34% wanted some type of sex ban, 45% wanted no government interference and 2% were not sure. ■

The service will be presented with the participation of several Roman Catholic priests

and the plans call for a dramatic procession with flags and crosses through the church. ■

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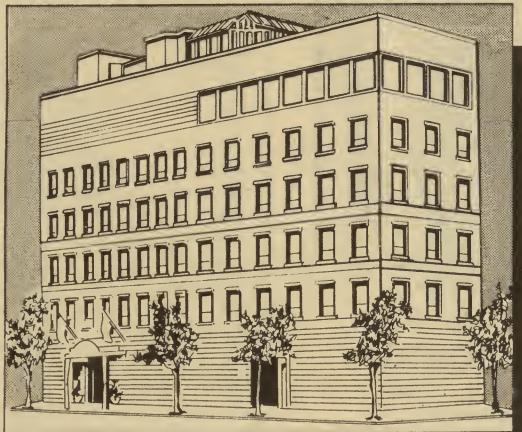
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No More Sex

(Continued from page 1)

Sources in City Hall say they expect the first public hearing on the ordinance to take place at the end of this month. Behind-the-scenes negotiating and lobbying on the ordinance indicate the key players are trying to edit the measure to be acceptable to a majority of the Board of Supervisors before it is formally introduced.

Another force delaying the formal release of the proposal is the reported insistence of Dr. Mervyn Silverman, the public health director, that the ordinance be able to withstand an expected court challenge from bathhouse owners.

Silverman first called for a ban on Gay sex in bathhouses, sex clubs, and bookstores at a press conference April 9. But under questioning, the health director conceded his program depended upon "support from the Gay community."

That support withered the following week. Many Gay political leaders said Silverman

other areas to which patrons are admitted have at all times an unobstructed opening," the proposed ordinance states.

Privacy is eliminated also by a requirement for bright lighting. "The permittee shall provide lighting throughout the establishment to an intensity of not less than 5 foot-candles, measured at 30 inches from the floor, during all hours of operation," the proposal states.

That standard lighting would produce a lighting environment similar to that of a well-lit restaurant or hotel lobby.

All traditional Gay sex acts are specifically forbidden under the measure: "...none of the following sexual activity or conduct (shall) occur on the premises between male patrons: (a) the placing of the penis of one male on or into the anus or mouth of another male; (b) the placing of the mouth of one male on the anus or penis of another male; (c) the contact of the feces or urine of one male with any part of the body of another male, (d) the entry of any part of the body of one male into the anus of another."

Statement by Mayor Dianne Feinstein

I was deeply concerned by the sensational headline implying police are spying on Gay bathhouses in this city. This is not the case.

In March, doctors and certain Gay leaders called for closing San Francisco's bathhouses, indicating sexual activity there was rampant. But I received conflicting reports from those who said sexual activities were not taking place in the bathhouses. Obviously, reliable information is imperative in matters of public health. That is why I asked for a rapid, one-time check. Police took no names, no pictures, and harassed and embarrassed no one.

Under present law, police issue licenses to the bathhouses and in fact are required to inspect them twice a year. I don't want police in the bathhouses, and that is why I have called repeatedly for the transfer of those responsibilities to the Health Department. I hope the Board of Supervisors will act rapidly to pass such legislation.

As Mayor, I am sworn to protect the lives of San Franciscans. Medical experts have determined that certain sexual acts transmit AIDS — a disease which has already killed 213 San Franciscans and which is killing others every day.

AIDS is a silent killer that is a clear and growing danger throughout the world. The fact is that you can communicate the disease before you know you have it. The fact is, we must come to grips with the current situation in which a city licenses facilities that enable the spread of this dreadful disease.

Everything I have done as Mayor has been to try to help — whether by seeing that the budget meets the needs, that AIDS victims have places to live, that vital programs are supported and as chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Task Force on AIDS.

You should also know that the Conference just notified me the Task Force received a \$70,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to help circulate up-to-date AIDS educational material to all cities. San Francisco is credited with taking the leadership against AIDS, and I am very proud of that.

I care very deeply about the loss of life caused by AIDS and the tragedies we see happening almost daily.

As to "spying" in the bathhouses, there isn't any. ■

had betrayed them by announcing a program more severe than the one they had agreed to. And Gay bathhouse owners said they would fight any city intrusions with a lawsuit — and began amassing a half-million dollar, national defense fund.

In that environment, City Attorney George Agnost sought to bring together the often conflicting forces in City Hall and the Public Health Department to put some legal muscle in Silverman's sex ban. The May 1 proposal was one result.

NO PRIVACY, NO SEX

The three-and-a-half page proposal is simple, direct, and graphic. If it were a movie, it would be X-rated. It eliminates Gay bathhouses, clubs, and bookstores as they are currently operated, and provides for the closure of the bathhouses if violations occur.

The first thrust of the proposal is to eliminate privacy in the clubs. There would no longer be doors on any individuals' rooms in the bathhouses.

"The permittee (bathhouse or sex club owner) shall ensure that all booths, cubicles, rooms or

Some "safe sex" techniques — or, more accurately, "lower risk" techniques — appear not to be covered by the ordinance. Mutual and group masturbation, and body contact not involving penetration are not mentioned.

THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE

But some practices considered "lower risk" are indeed mentioned — and prohibited. This puts some features of the measure at odds with AIDS experts and current, officially sanctioned literature on risk-reduction in Gay sex. In fact, some of the outlawed practices contradict the guidance offered by the pamphlets currently circulated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Perhaps the most important contradiction between what medicine knows and what the measure prohibits is in the case of oral sex during which semen is not exchanged. The practice is expressly outlawed under the proposed ordinance.

But as recently as last month, the more conservative AIDS experts from throughout the na-

(Continued on next page)

No Apology

(Continued from page 1)

LITTLE OUTRAGE

With the exception of the business people who own the bathhouses, there was little outrage over the operation. Gay leaders — though critical — did not appear willing to burn their bridges to the mayor's office.

"I certainly don't approve of it," said Ron Huberman, vice president for political affairs of the city's largest Gay political organization, the Harvey Milk

(Continued from previous page)

tion — including federal Centers for Disease Control physicians — pronounced oral sex without ejaculation a "practice with an unknown level of risk."

That was the judgment of physicians hand-picked by Dr. Marcus Conant, a proponent of closing bathhouses and banning Gay sex. The symposium group — which excluded many more "liberal" medical and socio-sexual AIDS experts — met May 4 and 5 at the University of California-San Francisco medical center. Whether the conference was called to provide medical backing for Silverman's sex ban is unclear.

When the proposed sex-ban is introduced, Gays and others interested in the public-policy debate over sex will be treated to a prurient public hearing. The May 1 draft of the proposal includes information on the still-to-come public hearing, written as if that public hearing had already taken place.

"In view of the evidence of the severe public health hazard leading to the transmission of AIDS submitted by the Director of Health and other witnesses at the hearings," the proposal states, "the Chief of Police has determined that severe sanctions for violations shall be imposed."

Those sanctions include suspension of the operating license of any bathhouse or sex club for 90 days if a hearing panel finds a violation of the ordinance. That's the minimum penalty. Under the May 1 proposal, the police chief may close the facility permanently upon further review — even if only one violation has occurred.

WHO WILL ENFORCE?

The sex ban is only half of a

Democratic Club. "It's an invasion of our privacy — and in no way does it help us."

"It's a serious error of judgment," Huberman said.

It fell to straight leaders to deliver the more stinging rebukes of Feinstein's secret police mission to the baths.

"It's the silliest damned thing I've ever heard. If it weren't so serious, it would be laughable. It's a direct invasion of privacy," said Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver.

Said Supervisor Richard Hongisto, "It's an unfortunate error on her part. What it says is, she didn't trust the people on

two-part package making the rounds at City Hall. The second proposal addresses who will license and inspect bathhouses — and who would enforce the sex-ban ordinance.

Under existing law, the police chief licenses and has authority to inspect bathhouses, and some sex clubs. A few sex clubs, and the city's adult bookstores, are presently in the gray area of the law; it is not clear who regulates those clubs — or how. Those who want to ban Gay sex in the baths, sex clubs, and bookstores are pushing for inclusion of all sex-related facilities in whatever ordinances the Board of Supervisors considers this summer.

The two ordinances are related, but they are separate. One spells out *what* will be against the law; the other defines *who* will enforce the law. Because of the secrecy surrounding the details of the sex-ban proposal, most public attention has been focused on the ordinance defining who will license Gay sex businesses.

That ordinance would transfer the licensing, inspection, and enforcement power from the Police Department to the Director of Public Health — Silverman. It is scheduled for its first public hearing June 14.

Whomever gets the enforcement power — and whatever it is they will enforce — one thing is becoming likely. The battle for the bathhouse promises to become the summer's top local issue.

That is precisely what Mayor Dianne Feinstein sought to avoid. Instead, with the Democratic National Convention coming to town in early July, the national media and political bigwigs will be surrounded by San Francisco's nasty fight over Gay sex.

What's In a Word? For Mondale a 'Gay' Choice

Walter Mondale has finally uttered the words "Gay and Lesbian." Sort of.

Is this news? Yes. Even though Mondale has frequently indicated his support for Gay rights throughout his campaign for the Democratic nomination for president, the former vice president carefully avoided saying "Gay" or "Lesbian."

That changed Wednesday night, May 30, at the annual Harvey Milk Birthday bash of the Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

Eleanor Mondale, the candidate's 24-year-old daughter, addressed the crowd and read a prepared statement from her dad. "I am proud of my record of fighting against discrimination of any form," the younger Mondale quoted her father as saying. "And I commit to you that I will sign the Moynihan

bill (federal Gay rights bill) to end discrimination against Gays and Lesbian citizens."

Mondale's policy of backing Gay rights without ever saying "Gay" was stretched to the limit in March 1982, when he was the keynote speaker at a Gay fundraiser. Mondale managed to discuss the Carter Administration's welcome to Gays at the White House in 1978 and his commitment to the federal Gay rights bill without ever uttering the words "Gay or Lesbian."

But then, he was speaking to the "Human Rights Campaign Fund" — a Gay group without a Gay name.

So last week Mondale said it at last — even though he put up his daughter to do so. The statement earned a hearty round of applause from those attending the Milk Club banquet.

her own Gay task force to give her information. It's almost an insult to the Gay people on her task force."

At Monday's roll call of the Board of Supervisors, Quentin Kopp demanded release of the intelligence report on the baths. An aide to Kopp said the supervisor's office was researching whether there was any legal power to force disclosure; the initial impression was that the supervisors could put little more than moral persuasion on the mayor to do so.

Some Gays apologized for the mayor. Lawrence Wilson, Gay attorney for the Police Depart-

Spy on Bathhouses" story broke — with the Gays she had appointed to city boards and commissions.

Dennis Collins, a Gay aide to Hongisto, also attended the meeting and was the only person on hand who did not report directly or indirectly — to the mayor's office.

Said Collins, "She acknowledged asking for the report, and explained and defended her position . . . 'steamy details' in the report was one of the topics. There is hot stuff in there. She vowed she will not release it. She said she would go to court rather than release it."

" . . . She didn't trust the people on her own task force to give her information . . . it's almost an insult to them."

— Richard Hongisto

ment, told the *San Francisco Examiner*, "The thing that struck everybody was the depth of concern she feels about the issue. We were really impressed with the mayor's sincerity to have accurate information so she understood the situation."

Randy Shilts, Gay reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, led that newspaper's first coverage of the controversy with a story headlined, "Mayor Defends Bathhouse Probe." The story reported why Feinstein believed the secret mission to be necessary and proper.

MEETS WITH GAYS

It appeared the mayor was trying to soothe the feathers of Gay and Lesbian leaders. She met from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday — the day after the "Cops

Collins said the mayor "did make the concession that she would never do it again using police."

The mayor was furious that word of the secret operation surfaced last week. It came in the form of an inch-high, banner headline emblazoned across page one of Thursday's *Examiner*: "Cops Spied on Bathhouses."

Feinstein called *Examiner* reporter Dave Farrell and is said to have given him a stern dressing-down for what she considered to be a misleading story. But the *Examiner* stood by its reporting and, the next day, followed with another top-of-page one-story: "Mayor to Gays: No More Bathhouse Spies."

The mayor pointedly denied any "spying" and said that city

ordinances, in fact, require police inspections of the bathhouses twice a year. Nonetheless, she telephoned reporter Farrell and apologized a day later for the severity of her initial attack on him.

By Monday, Feinstein had resumed her attack on the story — though she did not mention the *Examiner* by name. And she relied upon the time-honored technique of a politician under fire: she blamed the headline.

All over City Hall, people were asking each other who leaked the report. Any information was pure speculation. Just as Feinstein refused to release the report, so too did the mysterious leaker refuse to be known.

"Well, all it takes is one Xerox machine," said a City Hall worker. "And you have to believe there's more than just one copy of that report floating around here — or at the Police Department."

Police competence — and police motives — were another unanswered question. Said Hongisto, "The irony of the way this was handled is that, in search of reliability, she ended up with something less reliable than what she already had. This thing is bound to be shocking. It was a one-time hit . . . if the cops want to bias this, they could have gone to the most active place at the most active time; the police may have taken a certain satisfaction in embarrassing the Gay community."

The mayor's motives, too, were unclear. Feinstein privately wanted to close the baths for a year, before going public in April. Some suggest the report — and the manner in which it was leaked — are a ploy to strengthen the mayor's political hand on the issue. Said one Gay politico, "Between you and me? It's a ruse."

B. Jones

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Big Sister's Watching



In her myriad dealings around the city the mayor does a creditable job and usually does it well, but she has a couple of blind-spots.

One of them is the bathhouse issue. She is determined to close these businesses no matter what the cost. Aided and abetted by a clique of uptight, moralistic prudes, she announced last week that she had sent her vice squad into the baths to give her an update as to what kind of activities were going on in them.

How delicious! Can you imagine how these stalwart defenders of the law reacted? I can write the script at my desk. "Let's give her a real eye-opener." And they did!

The issue here is the mayor's blatant disregard for the laws of the land, the right to privacy, the right to gather. But in California, in case she has forgotten, sex between consenting adults is legal.

All of this investigating was done under the cover of the AIDS scare. Dr. Silverman has been accused by the mayor of dragging his feet in closing these establishments. Perhaps, Madam Mayor, you and he are not talking to the same city attorneys. To close these businesses under his department he has to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are indeed a cause of AIDS. No one in the medical profession across the country will make that statement.

I commend you in your untiring efforts on behalf of AIDS education and caring for the concerns of people with AIDS. I also share your compassion and empathy for the many victims of this dread disease, as I too have lost many close friends and associates.

No elected official has worked harder than you on behalf of the entire Gay community across the country in the fight against AIDS. But, we are not contrite children who don't care. Your own health department shows that the bulk of the Gay community has changed its sexual habits; rectal gonorrhea is down; the soaring rate of AIDS has stabilized; and we are concerned about safe sex.

There will always be a segment of any population who will not heed any warning, but these people also have their rights to do with their bodies as they see fit.

The bathhouses will either meet the needs of a new generation of enlightened customers, or they will pass into history without any help from the government.

Closing bathhouses will not stop people from having clandestine sexual contacts, and trying to legislate people's morals doesn't work.

Bob Ross

B.A.R.

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Leave Silverman Alone, Dianne

* Please publish this letter to Mayor Feinstein in B.A.R.

James Andrew Nicholas
San Francisco

* * * *

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

I am shocked and disgusted that you would send police spies into Baths and Private Clubs. Just as I rent a private space in the form of my apartment, I also rent private space when I patronize one of these establishments. What I do in either place is no one's business other than myself and my companion(s). In a private club, bath, or my bedroom; through police spies — you are an unwelcome voyeur.

Few of the friends I have acquired in the 12 years I've lived in San Francisco are fooled by your actions. You are not operating out of health concerns — the Cablecar repairs, tree plantings, new streetlights, and police spies in baths and private clubs are all for the same purpose — having your Democratic guests see what you want them to see.

While I strongly support educational efforts based on facts (not the post popular "best guess" grant-seeking MD's are pushing) I cannot denounce your approach on the bath and private club issue strongly enough!

Leave Dr. Silverman alone. He is a courageous man of conscience. Let him continue to do a good job as Health Director and resist the demands of insatiable political egos.

James Andrew Nicholas

Proposed Bathhouse Regulations

* It appears that there may be some continuing confusion in your coverage of the above matter, regarding whether or not Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) or myself have indicated support for the regulations proposed on April 9, 1984 by Dr. Mervin Silverman.

In this regard, I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to Dr. Silverman on April 13th of this year, just several days after his press conference.

I trust that this letter clarifies my own position regarding these regulations. As to BALIF, your readers should be advised that the Organization has not yet taken a formal position. It is anticipated that the issue will be placed before BALIF's membership within the next several weeks.

I would appreciate your advising your readers of the information contained in this letter, and in the enclosed letter to Dr. Silverman.

Steven A. Richter, Co-Chair
Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom

* * * *

Dear Dr. Silverman:

Please recall my participation in last Sunday evening's meeting in your office with various other community leaders. Please also recall that at the conclusion of Sunday's meeting, those of us in attendance were requested to again be present at your press conference to be held the next day at 11:00 AM. While you made it quite clear during Sunday's meeting that you were requesting the support of all community leaders who were present, no vote of any kind was taken. Certainly, the request to be present at your press conference was never made contingent upon a declaration of support for your proposal.

I was therefore more than annoyed at hearing my name read at the beginning of your press conference, as one of the leaders present who supported the decision you announced that morning. Perhaps this was an unintentional error; nevertheless, more care should

be taken in the future before an assumption is made of anyone's support for a particular decision or policy.

More importantly, I do wish to advise you that I intend to vigorously oppose the action you announced last Monday. I believe that your action will be counterproductive as a public health measure, ineffectual, and have a chilling effect on the constitutional rights of gay men and lesbians in this City. As Dr. Betty Agee, Chief of the Acute Communicative Diseases Division of the Los Angeles County Health Department recently stated: "Bathhouses don't cause AIDS, people do, and we have no way to police the behavior of people."

Albeit that you mightily strove to make this a medical decision based upon medical research and evidence, it is my feeling that the ultimate decision you made was little more than a political compromise, based upon political considerations.

As the Co-Chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), I intend to strongly urge BALIF's membership to take the most active role possible in educating our Community on this issue. As neither your Office nor the City Attorney's Office responded favorably to BALIF representatives' past requests for meetings with you, I must assume that your course of action has now been plainly and irrevocably stated. If I am in error in this regard, it would be helpful to hear from you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Steven A. Richter
Gottesman & Richter

Dianne for Dog Catcher

* The Mayoral Incumbent, and Vice-Presidential Aspirant, Dianne Feinstein, enveloped as she is in both moral hypocrisy and delusions of grandeur, reflects precisely the essence and the evils of the Women's Movement.

With but a smattering of knowledge she would impose her own ethical standard upon all; she avariciously tends to emasculate any of the opposite gender who oppose her; and she must have power for its own sake, at whatever costs.

Were she not a *persona veritas*, she would be laughable. And though she neither deserves it, nor (as of yet) aspires to it, she actually, one day, could become dogcatcher.

Thomas M. Edwards
San Francisco

Pokered by Politics

* Here is a copy of my letter to Mayor Feinstein in regards to her outrageous order to the San Francisco Police Department to spy on gay bathhouses.

Richard Lee
San Francisco

* * * *

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

I oppose and object to your order to the San Francisco Police Department to spy on gay bathhouses.

Surely you are aware of the activities within the bathhouses without sending the police in to give you detailed reports.

If the police were of "clean hands" perhaps your report would be possibly of substance. How about cleaning up the police department's act before venturing into other areas?

Your political ambitions seem to be destroying your sense of good judgment.

I hope you are not so naive as to believe that the confidential report you ordered on gay bathhouses is without prejudice.

I regret to have to write a letter of this nature.

Richard Lee



LETTERS

Ego, Greed, and AIDS

★ Articles appearing in the local fag rags during the past week have further confirmed that the most vocal proponents of regulating our sex lives and closing the baths have other motives.

1. The newest waste of taxpayers money is being proposed by Dr. Marcus Conant and Harry Britt. Just \$525,000 to set up an advertising campaign promoting their ideas about what kind of sex others should be having. Remember Dr. Conant is the person who started the KS Foundation originally. Don't forget the non-availability of accountability of funds with those groups.

Also remember that it was Dr. Marcus Conant and Harry Britt who lead the charge to close the baths. Something is very fishy when all of a sudden a few weeks later these same people are proposing that they control what is said to the media about AIDS. And to top off they would get \$25,000 (Dr. Conant) and \$20,000 (Pabish, Harry Britt's campaign manager). Sounds like they think that the gay community is really stupid. I might be a fagot but not a stupid one.

\$525,000 to inform the public!!! In April of 1982 I personally spent a grand total of \$80.00 to make posters stating AIDS symptoms and photographs showing what KS lesions looked like. I did this because no one else would. The medical profession was terrified that a panic would result. The public health department of SF tried to censor the posters. This was before the name AIDS existed. This was before KS Foundation. This was many months before anyone would tell the public what was happening. \$525,000!!! Has inflation increased that much?

2. According to the chart in the B.A.R. about rectal gonorrhea incidence in SF from 1979 to 1983, a special thank you should be bestowed to the gay population of SF for self-imposed changes in their sex practices. Does the gay community really need big brother dictating and running our sex lives.

3. Perhaps these all so vocal doctors should spend more time reviewing their medical practices and spending more time in reading research being done by others. Maybe they would learn something if they listened to the people who are still alive after 1-2-3-4 years. Could it be that the medical community is really killing the AIDS patients with their treatments?

4. Re Randy Shilts and closing the baths: A very interesting article about the author of "Mayor of Castro Street." Could it be (???) that Randy Shilts is taking out his anger in the press because AIDS stopped the making of a movie? Could his campaign to close the baths be just a release of anger by author, turned movie writer. Something to think about. I did.

Stew Anderson
San Francisco

Be Honest, Dianne

★ Please make public my letter to Mayor Feinstein about the bathhouse cops.

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

★★★★★

Mayor Feinstein:
That you ordered undercover plainclothes police officers to secretly visit gay bathhouses and private sex clubs (places, incidentally, I do not attend) is despicable. Civil rights issues are involved, and may explain, in part, what you perceive to be Dr. Silverman's "waffling" on the matter.

Furthermore, since you apparently aren't communicating constructively with Dr. Silverman, could not Chuck Forester have informed you about what is going on, and do not your covert orders badly undermine the long, hard and good works of Officer Paul Seidler?

One can only conclude that in your concern about how San Francisco appears to the Democrats you ignore the values implicit in the "Honorable" attached to your official position and name.

Finally, such actions aren't really very bright: Older, long-time Gay residents of San Francisco (I am one) have not forgotten what it meant to be treated in like manner during the 50s and 60s. I refer to the harassment of "gay" bars. It seems to me that because Gays and Lesbians had not a little to do with your election as mayor you owe us (at least) an honest explanation.

John D. Dolan

Money Talks, Bullshit Walks

★ I was just reading about Falwell's upcoming conference and thinking about the possibility that someone's going to try to stir up some protest.

This would be foolish. These "Christian" idiots (Reagan et. al.) are just looking for an excuse for a fight. One lesson I've learned is never pick a fight you're not sure you can win. Retreat is a military tactic.

To all the would-be protesters/demonstrators: remember the old saying "money talks, bullshit walks." Put your energy somewhere where it will do some good. This is no time for hot-headed politicking.

I think the same goes for the planned Gay demonstration to go along with the Demo convention. Unfortunately streets are still for cars, not people. Be wise.

Jim Boeger
San Francisco

More on the Thigh Spies

★ Dear Mayor Feinstein:

As a Human Rights Organization, we oppose the recent use of police surveillance for gathering health information related to sex practices in the bathhouses. Such methods heighten fear and distrust in our community already stressed by AIDS.

We appeal to you, Madam Mayor, to set a tone of sensitivity to the complex issues involved. We encourage you to use the resources which are available to you in the Health Department and within the Lesbian/Gay community.

Again, we offer our assistance in working through the problems that the AIDS crisis has thrust upon all of us.

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights
Kent L. Sack, MD, President

Another Nixon?

★ Former President Nixon believed he should use his power to spy in opposition to the privacy laws, which he had taken an oath to uphold. By then, he was already referred to as "Tricky Dick."

In the use of official power to order spying at bathhouses, the Mayor has likewise revealed a disregard for privacy and consent laws, whatever the excuse.

I have heard an old story of the Mayor receiving political education via an organization called CORA, and personally choosing to qualify for a degree in VICE work, and as part of the training accompanied those valiant men who trick gays into getting themselves arrested. If so, perhaps the Mayor has difficulty separating some of the emotional conflicts of the past from present official duties and realities.

As for that jazz, "if only one life is saved, it's worth it," anyone ridiculous enough to do so, could claim the same about aborting a fetus that could turn out to be a despot.

So, Dr. Silverman isn't sure if he remembers that the Mayor discussed, and the Police Chief while realizing this is strictly a medical problem allows his men to be used by a Mayor who just wants to find out for herself.

Next some obsessed dummy will insist adults now get leukemia because they have been affectionate to children.

First, the idea of total immunity failure is only an invented theory. Second, I would suggest that because people are gay is not the main consideration. What is more relevant is the fact that it is mostly within a certain age group. So, how about less emphasis on why it seems to be, and limiting the use of stigmatized words like syndrome, deficiency, immune and especially the word acquired. Why not simply call it RD for resistance distress, since the affliction becomes hellish enough without adding infliction to it

Williams (Bill!) Smith, 2001st
San Francisco

Is Civil Rights a Contest?

★ The United States is a country of diverse peoples and the Constitution set out to protect the diversity by limiting majority rule. Civil rights is not a popularity contest.

John Di Donna
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: Yes it is.

A Wilde History Lesson

★ In response to Mr. Gibbon's letter of May 31st: Oscar Wilde was very, very British, indeed!

In Oscar's time, Great Britain included Wales, Scotland and all of Ireland. (There was no Irish Free State.) The "British Isles" meant England and Ireland, therefore, being a Dubliner by birth, Oscar was under British Home Rule.

Sir William Wilde, Oscar's father, was the eye and ear surgeon to Queen Victoria, and Oscar's mother, Lady Wilde, was the famous novelist "Speranza." (It was not fashionable for women of her class to publish under her own name.)

Oscar stayed in London and faced his second trial, a counter libel suit, only because Lady Wilde begged him to do so, instead of fleeing the court solicitor by leaving on the night boat for France. Her greatest ambition for Oscar was to see him knighted and successful, since the Wilde's were not wealthy. (Sir William died in great debt.)

Oscar adored his mother and lived to please her, and so he was taken away to "The Old Bailey" to save the family name. Unfortunately, he was not able to raise bail, although a gentleman, he was broke. It was the beginning of his humiliation and downfall in fashionable London.

Oscar could never dream of being knighted to please Lady Wilde if he were not "British."

Sir William died in debt, because he was an alcoholic and a gambler, and, alas, so was dear Oscar. So it's not entirely inappropriate to name a gay bar after him, is it?

Charles Harris
San Francisco



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SEEMAN JOHNSON

LETTERS

AIDS Brings Out the Love

* I'd like to give a little expression to an important aspect of the AIDS crisis that has been receiving practically no attention from the media in general — the profound caring and depth of emotion that gay men have shown at the suffering and need of our brothers.

Specifically I'd like to applaud the so-called "death notices" the *B.A.R.* has been printing. More than just being obituaries, they show how loved and clearly how loving and nurturing men really are. Our culture is still so out of touch with this tenderness and nurturing quality of men even in this age of feminism and women's liberation. It's tragic that our conditioning is so strong that it takes a crisis to bring this out, but at least it is coming out.

In some ways I am more moved by the feelings and love of the men writing the articles than I am hurt by the loss. I've cried a lot and been very sad about the beautiful men unjustly and needlessly dying. It's so horrible. But more than this, I'm coming to feel a very delicate level of emotional connection to my gay brothers.

Even though, as we move closer to mainstream America in gaining our rights, Gays may be losing some trend-setting edge in fashion and music, I think we're starting to head more in the natural way we've meant to as the cutting edge of men's liberation. We're demonstrating the most radical notion of all — that male love and nurturing is not a second-rate version of something distinctly female. It is this aspect of the AIDS crisis that is making me very proud to be a gay man.

John Morrison
San Francisco

Is Pride Employment Service Legit?

* What does the District Attorney, Mr. Arlo Smith intend to do about the Pride Foundation's Employment Service?

Brandy Moore claims their "service" has a program which it, in reality, doesn't have. They have not received a grant from the Private Industry Council to retrain people. They claim they have a retraining program (quite false) which the foundation is funding itself in lieu of the grant.

If you don't donate \$35.00 you are not "served," period. You are told you can be "retrained" for 20 hours and, then, be eligible. Don't believe it? Go in and ask the receptionist. I asked myself why should a college graduate be "retrained" (answers phones for 20 hours) because I happened to be broke?

Moore claims, "No one is turned away. People leave on their own volition." They certainly do! Slavery went out after the Civil War, didn't it? And Brandy wonders why, under his presidency, the Pride/Hayes Center should be referred to as "The Uncle Tom Foundation"? Isn't this what got Ken Kline in trouble in the Castro? All of their clients have "donated." (paid registration fees).

What does Arlo Smith intend to do about these "professional gay rip-off artists" who are operating an "agency" without a license?

Charles Harris
San Francisco

Getting Clean Without Baths

* Maybe, somewhere out there is someone who, like me, has always thought that we have to choose between our sexuality and our spirituality. Several years ago I hesitantly wandered through a door marked "The Parsonage." There have been some ups and downs since I was commissioned as a Parson and I haven't always seen eye to eye with Bishop Swing or those who were in the driver's seats, but I kept going back and it's working. I've found a place where I can explore and celebrate my wholeness as a human being and my right to first class citizenship on this planet. The Parsonage isn't for everybody, but for some of us who've known a joy in our faith while chafing under the fussy domination of Mother Church, it's a place to ignore the "circle that shuns us out" and start drawing the circle that takes Mom in! Who knows, a walk down that corridor and up those stairs might surprise you by offering something more than just an alternative to the bar scene, the T-rooms or the bushes.

Bob Batten
San Francisco

Pox on Edwards

* Tom Edwards strikes again (aka the Wrath of the Gay Archie Bunker)! In "Going Back in the Closet" (5/24) he blames the closet flip-flop on Christianity, while ignoring the consistent prejudices of straight society. I wonder if he blames things like inflation on Christianity. His obvious obsession with the vagaries of Christianity is as strong as his need to constantly defend Richard S. Nixon.

Herb Levy
San Francisco

My Lungs Thank You

* A public thanks to Atlas Savings for saving us from that horrible bottom-of-an-ancient-ashtray smell which permeated the Market Street Branch and gagged us free-breathers. The improvement is much appreciated and my lungs and face thank you.

Harry Edmunds
San Francisco

Coit's Interruptus

* Here's a warning to anyone who plans a nice, quiet weekend at the Russian River — make sure the COITS have not also decided to stay where you plan to go.

I'm rather amazed that the owners of the Highlands didn't throw this loud, drunken, totally inconsiderate bunch of screaming (literally) queens out on their collective alcoholic butts so the rest of us could sleep — even at 6:30 and 7:30 in the morning.

The COITS' rude treatment of staff with snide sexual remarks to passersby was gays abusing gays in a most noxious way.

Thank you for providing a forum to bring this kind of thoughtless behavior to the gay community's attention.

H. Edmunds
San Francisco

Shifts Without the "L"

* Why does the *Chronicle* continue to keep a writer with a history of irresponsible journalism, especially when he continues with this behavior?

I am referring to Randy Shilts and his recent article on the closing of the Sutro Bathhouse. When I complained to Mr. Shilts, he suggested I look up the word "orgy" in the dictionary. He claims the word does not mean sex, but we all know that to the general public that is exactly what it means.

The Sutro closing that Randy Shilts described was a far cry from the type of event that actually occurred. It's interesting that he chose to cover the event after it happened rather than attending as did the other media representatives.

He completely de-emphasized and distorted the reason for the actual closing. It was not because of the AIDS crisis, but because of the political maneuvering of the Mayor, Harry Britt and Dr. Silverman whose polemic statements grabbed the headlines; the public was mis-informed and misled.

As for the song I wrote, that Mr. Shilts quoted, it was not a song "mourning the closing," it was a protest to the political injustice that has occurred surrounding the scapegoating of the bathhouses.

Apparently Mr. Shilts continues to be unaware of the damage that is caused by his insensitivity to issues which dramatically affect peoples' lives.

Bill Folk, Songwriter
San Francisco

Randy Got It Wrong Again!

* If you want to know why the Gay Community dislikes the *Chronicle's* token fag so much — just look at the headlines for his story on the closing of my bathhouse. No wonder Harry and Dianne are running around like Chicken Littles and screaming "the sky is falling!"

The headlines said "A Farewell 'Orgy' at Sutro Baths." If an orgy is a person with AIDS (Paul Castro) eloquently pleading for people not to be afraid of loving, but to use caution in its physical manifestation; a witty and timely song written and sung by Bill Folk about the political abuse in closing down the baths; people dancing and hugging and crying and singing Aud Lang Syne; then Randy Shilts is right. It was an orgy. But the dictionary defines orgy as "a gathering marked by unrestrained indulgence in alcohol, drugs, or sexual practices." No one attending our party could possibly define it that way . . . and Randy was not there.

Our Grand Closing Party was fun, but not that much fun and Randy has again sensationalized a very human story into something grotesque and fearful.

Bill Jones
Sutro Bathhouse
San Francisco

Shilts' Debut

* I just met Randy Shilts for the first time. Now I can see why he wants to close the baths . . .

Christopher Benedict
San Francisco

LETTERS

Shilts is No Screenwriter

★ It is with some amusement that I read your article on the difficulties in getting Hollywood to do a Gay Film. What started out as a serious investigation into the picture-making problems, winds up being another ego-fulfilling diatribe from the outrageously put-upon Randy Shilts. Please!

Shilts, even with his three months off from the *Chronicle*, was well paid, not only for a year's option on the book, but for a screenplay that just didn't work. It happens sometimes. And not because of Gay Activist Groups, "politics mixing with art" or rednecks. It didn't work because of sometimes too precious prose like (and you have quoted it in regard to actors being considered) "bandied about like tennis balls."

The story of Harvey Milk didn't need a case of the cutes. It is unfortunate that Randy Shilts was not aware that a script like *The Verdict*, for instance, went through seven writers before reaching the screen. It has been said that very few first-time authors have been able to adapt their work to the film form. Very few get the chance. Joe Hamilton was most charitable to Shilts. It was up to him to come through.

The first draft was neither good nor bad. It obviously needed work and, after a meeting with Hamilton and an agent from Creative Artists, suggestions were made for a rewrite. I worked with Shilts to get a more personal Harvey Milk, less a cardboard martyr and to work toward a more conversational flow in the dialogue. The original script, in adhering to the book, tended to be stilted and more reportage than talk. It was too close to a docu-drama style. The second draft met with approval but leaned so heavily toward the Gay Rights Issue that, with the AIDS epidemic at the front of Media attention, studios were afraid of presenting a film dealing with a lifestyle which says there is only one difference — sexual preference. Attitude was (not just in Hollywood) that preference is the cause of the dread disease.

Joe Hamilton had tried but realized he did not have a viable project at this time and dropped the option on the book. I asked Shilts for an option, got six months, told him we had a lot of work to do, and lost him completely.

With the help of Randa Dembroff, I completed a new screenplay which paralleled Milk with White and introduced more characters, a few fictitious scenes and action. When Shilts saw the new script with our names added, he immediately made it known that he thought it was lousy and that was that. I found myself accused of going over to the Dan White camp.

At the end of my six-month option, enough was enough and I, along with Joe Hamilton, found relief in relinquishing the rights to *The Mayor of Castro Street* to its author, making it available to anyone Shilts and his agent might consider more influential in the big world of "let's play moving picture."

In February I had the good fortune of seeing Steve Dobbins' *The Dan White Incident*. I met with Steve and together we almost completed a screenplay based on that play. I am getting terrific feedback from rednecks, Gay Los Angeles activists, and political ideologists. And — what an improvement.

It is unfortunate that Randy Shilts, being a reporter, obviously asks the questions but sets up his own answers. The story of Milk, Moscone, and White goes in many directions. Many questions should be answered. These answers must be made understandable to all groups for the story itself concerns everyone. Understanding, alone, will get Harvey Milk's message across.

I came to my attention that Randy Shilts once said in regard to Hollywood, 'one takes the money and runs.' I'm glad he did just that for it allows Steve Dobbins and myself to seriously get on with what I know will be the definitive motion picture on a controversial subject. And daring, I promise you.

Paul Barnes
Morongo Valley, CA

Parents of Gays Outreach

★ There are supposed to be about 100,000 gay men and lesbians in San Francisco. By contrast, there are only 25 dues-paying members in the local chapter of the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. About a half-dozen of these do most of the work.

Although Parents and Friends is primarily a support group, it is committed to speak out and act to defend and enhance the human and civil rights of gay men and lesbians. We march in the parade, we visit with groups like Lutherans Concerned, Dignity, Gay Fathers. We talk at colleges and universities and appear on TV on behalf of our lesbian/gay children.

And we want to continue. Recently, we have been overwhelmed with requests to support several worthy causes. However, our supply of energy and money is running low. What we need is more parents to share the responsibility, particularly the ones who are already comfortable with their lesbian/gay children.

For more information, call (415) 668-2128, 928-2748, or 347-7959 or write to P.O. Box 9223, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Bert Brauer
San Francisco

San Francisco Sex-Police 1984

★ I personally have not patronized a "sex palace" in years. I also find it sad and disturbing that during this crisis the clubs that promote loose sex hadn't closed already for lack of business. Still, I find Dr. Silverman's proposed plan of action frightening and socially abhorrent — a spinoff of Larry Littlejohn's ill-conceived and dangerous petition.

Mr. Littlejohn himself makes the point that only 5% or so of the gay population use bathhouses in San Francisco in 1984. Our city and our country don't need a 5% solution to the AIDS terror. To assume that prohibiting and monitoring sexual behavior in certain bathhouses and clubs will put a dent in the spread of AIDS, or in sexual promiscuity, is incredibly simplistic thinking.

If Mr. Littlejohn had put out a call for volunteers to picket sex clubs with photos of AIDS victims, or had required the baths to prominently post such pictures, I would be behind him 1,000%. His "solution" is not the American Way, and may well deal a devastating blow to personal freedoms in several areas. If this becomes the method San Francisco applies to deal with the AIDS crisis, it is likely to become a model for other cities.

Larry Littlejohn's proposed law and Dr. Silverman's will ultimately lead to increased police/state powers in the area of sexual practices between consenting adults in rented rooms. Worse yet, there are grey areas involved in legal interpretation where the potential for overlapping infringement and abuses are both enormous and terrifying. Just what constitutes "sex" between men? Do you want a policeman or civil servant to interpret such behavior? Just what constitutes a bathhouse? Couldn't a hotel or boarding house that caters to gay people be considered such if it happens to have a steamroom, whirlpool, or sauna on the premises?

I have long been a close friend of Larry Littlejohn. It is my personal opinion that becoming a law enforcement officer has had an effect upon his judgment. I have no doubt that Larry Littlejohn meant well in his endeavor to save lives. However, there is sometimes an indefinable line between good and evil. History is full of evil deeds perpetuated by well-meaning people or groups.

I don't believe one can overstate the importance of just how San Francisco handles the AIDS crisis. People seem to forget that but a few decades ago there were "convicted" homosexuals in the United States of America.

Ron Bero
San Francisco

Rise Up and Charge!

★ Isn't it about time we all rise up and stop this Dick Pabich self-employment bill to spread the homophobic defamations of the dangers of gay sex for the entertainment and mis-education of local straight allies powerful enough to swamp competing centers of power, policy and funding?

Is no price too high for these Quisling strategists to consolidate their stranglehold on our grass-roots community's collective voice?

Is it time to get some supervisors who run their election campaigns and staff and not visa versa?

AIDS is already a powerful enough weapon running wild against our very existence as a people. How much more state sponsored eroticophobic, monogamic, hegemonic controls over our relationships with one another can we possibly hold out against when served the spectacle of what we thought to be comrades leading the charge from the other side of the battlements of individual freedom and body sovereignty?

Spinstar
San Francisco

The Mail Closet

★ What do the following San Jose organizations, Metropolitan Community Church, AIDS/KS Foundation, and Billy DeFrank Community Center, to name a few, have in common with the usual array of junk and sometimes pornographic literature received in the mail? None of these organizations has the "balls or tits" to put their names proudly above their post office box as a return address.

My attempts to have these various organizations proudly display their names have been fruitless. Perhaps a public letter might get some results. So once again dear people, won't you please proudly put your organization's name above your return address or stop sending your literature to me.

There are those of us out there that don't fear receiving mail with your names on it and personally if someone in this day and age fears a harmless name like MCC, etc. as a return address they shouldn't be receiving mail from the organization they belong to anyway. Get with it, gang, and be proud of what you stand for.

Peter Dal Poggetti
San Jose

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Arrest Made in Murder of Hollywood Publicist

by Allen White

Joseph Mitchel, 19, was arrested in Chicago last week and charged with the May 16 murder of 20th Century-Fox film executive Lee Beaupre.

Police said he was also wanted in Canada for attempted murder, robbery, burglary, and sexual assault charges.

Mitchel was arrested in Illinois when he attempted to use Beaupre's stolen Visa card to pay for a dinner. A Telecheck rejected the charge and Mitchel offered Beaupre's American Express card as alternate payment. The restaurant verified the card and was told that the bearer was considered dangerous. He was caught a few minutes later driving the film executive's car.

Joseph Mitchel has been returned to Los Angeles and charged with murder, grand theft, and robbery relating to the death of Lee Beaupre.

Gay film publicist Lee Beaupre, 42, West Coast Publicity Director for 20th Century-Fox, was found brutally beaten to death in his Los Angeles home. Respected for his ability to market motion pictures, he was

also a writer for the entertainment trade publication *Variety*.

In the last twenty years, his expertise at developing new concepts to merchandise films had an impact on millions. He is credited with working on the marketing programs for *Easy Rider* and later *The Exorcist*. In the mid-'70s he helped launch a then-new concept of booking a film to open at hundreds of theaters at one time. The film, *The Trial of Billy Jack*, grossed a then-unbelievable one million dollars a day for two weeks.

Beaupre had worked periodically in San Francisco and came to the city to work for Francis Ford Coppola and his Zoetrope film organization. With Coppola he was a key marketing force on the film *Apocalypse Now*.

Disneyland Ordered to Allow Gay Couple on Dance Floor

Park Will Shut Down Dances If Same Sex Couples Persist

by George Mendenhall

Andrew Exler and Shawn Elliott can now dance together on any of Disneyland's three dance floors at the Anaheim amusement park. A Superior Court jury in conservative Orange County voted 11-1 to allow the same sex couple dancing privileges that were denied them on September 13, 1980. Judge James Ross has issued an injunction against the park, to halt further harassment of the couple.

The ruling applies directly to Exler, 23, and Elliott, 20. It does not, however, immediately end the discriminatory policy. The decision will be used in other possible cases as precedent-setting, and the park management is faced with possible similar rulings if others test the park policy. Disneyland is appealing the Exler/Elliott ruling in a state appellate court.

Exler, only 20 at the time of his dance showdown, admitted to this reporter that when a Lesbian friend of his told him of the policy in 1980, he decided to test it in the courts. He says, "I could not believe there could be such a policy so I went there with my friend, Shawn. We began dancing at Tomorrowland Terrace and were stopped within a minute." It was "Date Night" but security personnel explained that they were not considered a "date" and were ushered out of the park.

Attorney Ronald Talmo was contacted, and a lawsuit filed under the state's Unruh Civil Rights Act, which prohibits businesses from discriminating in services and accommodations. (An earlier state Supreme Court ruling had determined that Gay people are included under the protection of Unruh). The couple later dropped a demand for a financial settlement,

Following jobs at Warner Bros. and Lorimar Productions, he began eight months ago at 20th Century-Fox.

Reports indicate that he was bloody bludgeoned to death in his apartment located in the Wilshire area of Los Angeles. Evidently robbery was not a motive. His body was discovered by co-workers who went to his home when he failed to report for work. He had last been seen the previous evening at a screening of the film *Indiana Jones*.

Lee Beaupre had also gained a respected reputation as a writer and reviewer for the entertainment trade paper *Daily Variety* and its weekly counterpart, *Variety*.

In the extremely homophobic entertainment business, Beaupre had been fairly open about his Gayness. He was known for being extremely cooperative with Gay press people who covered entertainment.

20th Century-Fox, like most major film studios, has had several Gay men in key executive positions in recent years but has displayed an extremely conservative attitude about allowing this to become public. Though the Los Angeles Police stated they were treating the death as a "Gay" murder and with the obvious Gay implications, Fox executives refused to make any comment regarding Beaupre's being Gay.

to run for public office in Orange County when he sought to become a member of the school board.

Although over fifty law suits are filed a year in Orange County against Disneyland, jurors have only ruled against the park twice in over thirty years. That is why Exler believes, "This case is such a great precedent. No Orange County jury will rule against such cases in the future after this 11-1 decision." The young activist hopes that Disney will continue to appeal his case because, "I am confident that they will continue to lose and the higher they go in the courts, the broader the ruling against them will become."

GAY DANCE CASES

Exler realizes that he can now go to the amusement park with Elliott and dance. However, he has not seen Elliott for three years and is not even sure where he is living. He and his attorney believe that it might damage future appeals if he "made a scene" at the park by returning with Elliott at this time.

Gay activist Morris Kight said he knew of no organized effort for a large number of Gay people to go to the park and to have a mass dance-in but he allows, "It could happen." Exler adds, "For each case against them they have to bring in their expensive attorneys and face a possible \$250 Unruh settlement for each one. This could be expensive for them."

It is widely known that Disneyland does not admit anyone who has long hair, bare feet, appears to be "unkempt" or wears clothing that has an emblem or message. In order to preserve its heterosexual "family" image, one official has said that if same-sex dancers began to appear regularly at the park, the dance floors will be permanently closed.

Gay Power Touted at Milk Dinner

by Wayne Friday

The growing power of Gay politics in general, and the Harvey Milk Democratic Club in particular, came through last Tuesday when top representatives of the Hart and Mondale campaigns, the president of National Organization for Women, California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, and Assemblyman Art Agnos addressed a packed Milk Club dinner held at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. The dinner has become an annual affair held to celebrate the birthday of the late supervisor, which also serves as a major fund-raiser for the organization named for the slain leader.



John Molinari gets a hug from Art Agnos. (Photo: Rink)

In addition to bringing out many of the city's political heavies and fattening the club's bank account, the dinner showed how far Gay politics have come, not only in California, but at the national level. Both presidential hopeful Gary Hart, represented by his national campaign co-chair Ted Sorenson, a former Kennedy advisor who flew in from New York to attend, and Walter Mondale, who was represented by his daughter Eleanor, a Hollywood actress, sent messages strongly supporting Gay rights, including the national Gay rights bill, which is similar to California's recently-vetoed AB-1. In fact, Hart's message went further. The

Colorado senator promised to issue an executive order banning government discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians.

The messages from the presidential candidates notwithstanding, for many of the Milk Club activists and others who have been around for awhile, the emotional highlight of the evening came with repeated praise by leaders of the political mainstream for the work and accomplishments of the late Harvey Milk. Many of the Milk Club leaders had known and worked closely with the late supervisor, and remembered a time when neither Milk nor any Gay leader was taken seriously in politics. Clearly, all that has

changed.

"To hear the major presidential candidates praising Harvey and those who now carry on his work was amazing, something I never thought I'd hear," said Bill Kraus, a former Milk Club president who is now an aide to San Francisco Congresswoman Sala Burton.

Meanwhile, NOW president Judy Goldsmith — clearly the evening's most popular speaker — won over the audience with her strong denunciation of the Reagan administration.

"You may think we can live through four more years of Ronald Reagan, but if we don't defeat him this November, he'll have a chance to appoint three or four or even five Supreme Court Justices, and we'll be living with that for the rest of our lives," she declared with her pledge of support from the women's movement for Lesbian and Gay rights.

New York Congressman Ted Weiss, one of the original sponsors of a national Gay rights law, also spoke to the dinner from Washington via telephone hook-up.

The Milk Club honored Speaker Willie Brown for what Milk president Carol Migden called his "unhesitating response to our needs in the AIDS crisis," by getting nearly \$3 million in state funds for AIDS research. Brown praised the club for its AIDS work and singled out Dr. Marcus Conant for his leadership in determining AIDS research needs. Conant was among those attending the dinner. San Francisco Assemblyman Art Agnos also was honored by the Milk Club at the dinner for his work in guiding AB-1 through the legislature, only to see it vetoed by Republican Governor George Deukmejian.

Among the many officehold-

ers who attended were Assemblyman Tom Hayden; D.A. Arlo Smith; Supervisors Molinari, Hongisto, Silver, Maher, and Kennedy; Sheriff Mike Hennessey; Public Defender Jeff Brown; Dr. Mervyn Silverman; Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird; Community College Board president Tim Woldred; numerous commissioners and board members, and a score of

Gay Men's Chorale Sues Archdiocese

by Dion B. Sanders

Attorneys representing Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Chorale, which was denied permission to perform a concert at St. Boniface Church last year, filed suit against the San Francisco Roman Catholic Archdiocese, charging it with breach of contract.

The suit, filed in Municipal Court, charges that the contract, agreed upon between the Chorale and Father Robert Pfister, pastor of St. Boniface, was breached when Archbishop John Quinn notified the Chorale that it would not be permitted to perform at St. Boniface for its planned April 29, 1983, concert.

(It was reported that Quinn objected to the Chorale using the word "Gay" in its name, which, according to the suit, "is utilized to connote an affirmative, positive, and life-enhancing lifestyle" — a lifestyle that the Roman Catholic Church finds unacceptable.)

The suit charges that while relying upon the contract, "The Chorale incurred advertising expenses, and spent many hours promoting ticket sales to the concert at St. Boniface Church."

When the contract was breached, the suit continues, "the Chorale was required to find another location for their concert at the last moment."

ers in the crowd of 600 attending last week's dinner were Assemblyman Tom Hayden; D.A. Arlo Smith; Supervisors Molinari, Hongisto, Silver, Maher, and Kennedy; Sheriff Mike Hennessey; Public Defender Jeff Brown; Dr. Mervyn Silverman; Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird; Community College Board president Tim Woldred; numerous commissioners and board members, and a score of

The replacement site was much smaller than the 600-seat St. Boniface, less well-suited to the music, and less convenient to the local community, the suit charges.

"Consequently," the suit continued, "the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale suffered substantial pecuniary losses due to the breach of the contract by the defendants."

Named as defendants were Archbishop Quinn, the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the Franciscan Order, St. Boniface Church, and Father Pfister. The suit seeks unspecified compensatory damages to recoup losses stemming from the sudden change of concert sites.

The plaintiffs are represented by Paul Wotman of the Gay law firm of Wotman and Hall and by Leonard Graff of National Gay Rights Advocates.

Ironically, St. Boniface Church is the new home for Dignity, the association of Gay Catholics, which will hold its Masses there each Sunday. ■

candidates running for office.

The crowded dinner reportedly brought in thousands of dollars for the club's treasury, and although I didn't hear anyone praising the meal itself, the cocktail party held before the dinner was one of the best I've seen at a political function. The hors d'oeuvres were better than many political dinners I have eaten. ■

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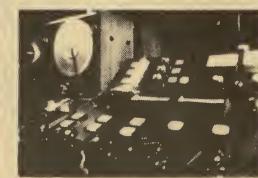
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Record Turnout Expected for '84 Gay Parade

Volunteer Support and Money Still Pose Problems

by Allen White

The annual San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration — marking the 15th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots — will kick off at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 24. Work on the largest Gay event of the year has been proceeding diligently, yet almost too quietly, for the last several months.

Ken Jones, Parade co-chair, said there are 148 march contingents and 40 float entries and that by parade day more than 200 groups will be assembling at Market and Spear Streets. Reports indicate that most hotels are already booked — many to capacity — for the weekend. Travel agents have noted that they can sense the increased activity for the special weekend.

Though the parade has been almost overshadowed by the activities relating to the Democratic Convention, the outlook for a successful event is excellent. Co-chairperson Linda Boyd, the female co-chair, said they would meet their quota of 250 safety monitors for the streets. AIDS Foundation staffer Kenn Purnell is rounding up 50 medics and is on schedule.

The parade and celebration organizers acknowledge that their biggest problem is the lack of controversy. After four years of experience in presenting the largest Gay parade in the world, they have most of the problems solved. "We don't spend an hour and a half anymore arguing about the parade route," said Jones.

They go into this year's event

with two serious concerns: money and volunteers. "The people will be there," said Linda Boyd. "People have a way of taking the parade for granted. They ought not." This is the time when they now must generate a community ownership of the parade.

People who are willing to commit time to small, but im-



Linda Boyd (Photo: Rink)



300,000 spectators at the last Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, but only a handful of organizers to stage the event.
(Photo: Rink)

portant tasks like answering the telephone are needed. Currently there are about ten people doing all the work to coordinate this massive parade and celebration.

Their case for soliciting community support is emphasized when they point out that nearly a quarter of a million people come to the parade each year. By comparison, in spite of the publicity, only 30,000 people will be officially involved in the Democratic Convention.

The parade has nearly \$16,000 in the bank, plus \$13,175 in hotel tax fund money. The figures are deceiving, since, for example, the printing bill for the programs, which is substantial, is still not

paid.

Ken Jones said that 91% of the money from the hotel tax fund is committed to go to city-mandated expenses. This includes everything from performance bonds to porta-potties.

Linda Boyd adds that 20% of their annual budget will come from merchandising. To date, she says the sales of the parade t-shirts are far ahead of last year. "We have a better looking shirt, and the quality is higher," she said. Lack of volunteers, however, has stifled their ability to get the shirts into stores so they can derive higher sales.

Boyd and Jones both view the event in the most realistic of terms. There is no question in

their minds that the event will be a success for those in attendance. What they do question is the community sense of urgency as they approach their financial obligation.

There is also no question the parade organizers are working as hard as people can work on such a project. In their endurance marathon for the next two weeks they are pleading to the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian community for volunteer help. With only 24 people attending their last general membership meeting Sunday, it became clear that the 1984 San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade needs, more than anything, a good solid dose of people power. ■

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POLITICS AND POKER

Pre-Convention Blues

WAYNE FRIDAY

Dianne Feinstein might not get the vice-presidential nod (Herb Caen says Willie Brown is for NY Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro) but Feinstein's making the cover of *Time* the month before she hosts the Democrats' national convention surely didn't hurt her chances. • A lot of those Hart supporters who shelled out \$150 each last week to meet the promised Warren Beatty, Margaux Hemingway, Jack Nicholson, and other big-name stars were more than a little pissed when all were no-shows; Hart himself ran in and out quickly, as though he couldn't wait to get the hell out of the place, and comic Robin Williams tried to save a little face for the Hart organization, cracking apologetically, "For this kind of money, you should get Robert Redford nude."

What about that "co-ed" bathhouse that featured at its "closing party" last week the burning of a stack of the valuable "Can We Talk" AIDS brochures put out by the Milk Club and paid for by many in our community who do have a concern about the deadly disease — is burning valuable information their answer to the serious AIDS crisis?

Now that the Republicans have announced that they will have a woman to keynote their Dallas convention (U.S. Treasurer Katherine Dávalos Ortega) look for the Democrats to announce that a woman will do likewise at their convention here next month. • To allay fears that Gary Hart might actually select Jesse Jackson as his running mate should Hart gain the nomination next month, Hart announced last week that "Reverend Jackson's positions on the Middle East are at present totally unacceptable to me and outside the mainstream of what this country's foreign policy has been in that region for 30 to 35 years." Hart's possible consideration of Jackson has set off deep consternation in the Jewish community of this country.

Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird received one of the biggest hands of the evening from last week's large Milk Club dinner. • And Assemblyman Art Agnos, who along with Speaker Willie Brown was honored at the Milk dinner, had it all going his way when he was introduced (standing ovation and all) and then proceeded to lose the crowd with his rambling, tiring speech that went on for 25 minutes (he was to have taken 3 minutes) — the identical speech, incidentally, that he had given a month ago to the MECLA dinner in L.A., and then again at the Gay Press Ass'n convention dinner in L.A. last week; Milk dinner officials were not amused as they pondered whether or not to get the hook as Agnos droned on. Milk prezzy Carole Migden still miffed that, due to the length of Agnos' unscheduled "speech," she had to shoo him off his schedule speech to make time for the evening's guest speaker, NOW president Judy Goldsmith. • Hollywood actor/activist Ed Asner will appear at an "evening of fun and fiesta" this Saturday (7 to 9 p.m.) as a fundraiser (\$25) for Harry Britt at the courtyard of the Cannery, 2801 Leavenworth; mariachi band and Mexican food; 864-1546 for info.

In Hanover, NH, legal action against the conservative *Dartmouth Review* is being consid-

ered by the attorney general's office; a reporter for the college paper secretly recorded a meeting of the Gay Students' Association and the paper published a transcript. • In L.A. last week the American Jewish Committee held a \$250 dinner honoring Gay rights activist, UC regent, banker, lawyer Sheldon Andelson, and politicos of all persuasions showed up, including Jerry Brown, Lt. Gov. Leo McCarty, Mayor Tom Bradley, UC President David Pierpoint, and Jane Fonda. Senator Ted Kennedy flew in from Washington to speak and announced that "I'm here because I love Shelly Andelson." Pause. "Figuratively, of course." Kennedy, incidentally, told reporters at the Andelson dinner that he will not take sides in the Demo presidential race, that he does not expect a deadlocked convention, and said again he would refuse a draft if such a move was tried at the July San Francisco convention. Kennedy, in fact, will probably not even speak to the Demos' confab until after the nominee is chosen.

An overflow crowd of friends and supporters were at last night's re-election kickoff reception for Jack Molinari at Trader Vic's with Mayor Feinstein serving as the event's honorary chairperson. • Overheard as Willie Brown was introduced at the Milk dinner: "That suit Willie has on cost more than my car did." • Popular bartender Dixon will host a plant auction this Sunday, June 10, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Mint on Market to benefit John Wahl's supervisory campaign.

The *New York Times* wrote last week that Republicans, perhaps more than many Democrats, are looking forward to the opening of the Demo National Convention in San Francisco next month, but they are looking forward to the pre-convention week even more. One of Reagan's campaign strategists has made the remark privately that Republicans themselves could not have done a better job of planning some of the sideshows that will be swirling around the Democratic convention. Some of the expected pre-convention highlights the Republicans are supposedly looking forward to include the large Gay march and rally, and other activities planned by the Gay and Lesbian community to call attention to their political agenda. The Moral Majority and other conservative groups then plan a "Family Forum" that will include a discussion of the "threat of homosexuality" in America (Gays promise they will picket the family forum); COYOTE, a group representing hookers, has scheduled a meeting of its members during the convention. Groups of elderly Democrats, labor unionists, and environmentalists, all part of the Democratic rainbow, plan marches and rallies. Meanwhile, the City has a strong anti-smoking ordinance and non-smoking delegates will surely demand enforcement of it. All of this led one Democratic convention official to comment recently, "The sheer power and wonder of San Francisco will be severely tested during pre-convention week." Meanwhile, San Francisco police and city officials have been trying to assure Democrats that they "have nothing to fear but fear itself" — and the Republicans will be watching, surely hoping for the

Sammy Davis Jr. Stands by His AIDS Commercial

Expressing no regrets about his close involvement with a public service announcement for AIDS, entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. declared he would do it again if he was asked.

"This is something that all people must be concerned with, must be involved with, just like the fight against polio and cancer," Davis told *The Weekly News*, the Gay newspaper of Miami, Florida.

"This is a subject that people should learn the facts about. If through my popularity or whatever I could help the cause, that's great!"

Davis was one of several celebrities approached by the sponsoring Episcopal Church to do the 60-second spot, but was the only one to accept.

"What can I say? They asked me to do it and I said yes. We must let people know that AIDS is prevalent and spreading and (with factual information) maybe we can help eradicate it."

The commercial in which Davis exhorts viewers to "get the facts" by calling a government toll free hotline (800-342-AIDS) has been aired some 1200 times, according to Church producer Sonia Francis. However, no major networks have touched it.

ABC rejected it "because of content," according to a church spokesperson.

Francis noted that the church has received no negative responses from the TV spot — "most were glad to see the

church was reaching out in this area."

"People have to realize that we've got this problem and we have to deal with it. It's so dumb to ignore it and hope it will go away. It's the same thing society did with the race problem." ■



Sammy Davis, Jr. as he appears in AIDS commercial by Episcopal Church.

worst.

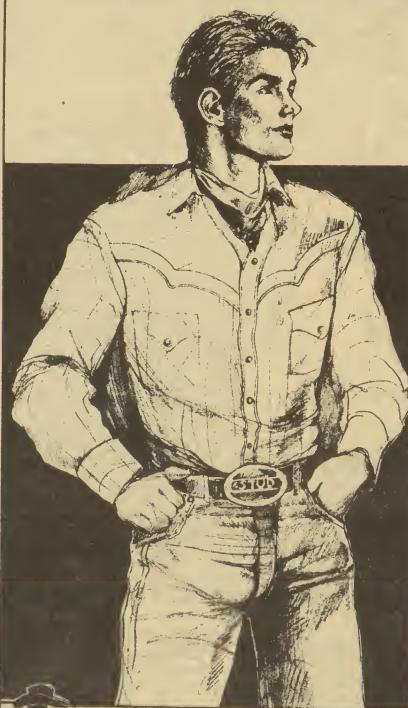
Don't forget tonight's birthday party at the home of Lia Belli for Anne Daley — anyone who is anybody in this town's political picture will be at this one (2950 B'way; \$25 at the door). • Some of Police Commissioner Jo Daly's friends tell me she was "furious" at Mayor Feinstein's sending the cops into the city Gay bathhouses, and

was at one point reportedly ready to resign to show the mayor her disappointment.

Christine Craft, the news anchorwoman-turned-activist, learned that even though San Francisco is far from ever being Reagan country, the people who live here don't appreciate cheap political attacks on the president; at the Hart rally in the financial district last week,

Craft, serving as emcee, called Reagan a "sexist son-of-a-bitch" and poked fun a couple of times at Nancy Reagan for the public affection she shows for her husband. The crowd, which had roared its approval of other comments about the administration, became almost silent and clearly showed its disapproval when Craft's attacks became personal. ■

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Interview: Art Agnos

AB-1 Will Not Be Abandoned

Assemblyman Forms New Group to Trip Up Fundamentalists

by George Mendenhall

"I believe that if we lose one incumbent because of their vote for the Gay jobs employment bill, AB-1, it will set back the cause of Gay civil rights in this country until the next century. The message would go out in California and the nation that it is not safe to support a legislator who supported Gay rights."

Assemblyman Art Agnos drew this conclusion this week as he announced formation of a new group, Californians for Justice, that will assist candidates who are politically threatened because they voted for AB-1. The group will also monitor the illegal involvement of tax-exempt religious groups in political campaigns. Agnos pleaded, "If we lose our fight for Gay rights here, we lose it everywhere. So California goes, so goes the nation."

The dynamic author of AB-1 was honored last week at a New York City banquet under the auspices of the Fund for Human Dignity. The local Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club will toast Agnos at its annual banquet on May 30.

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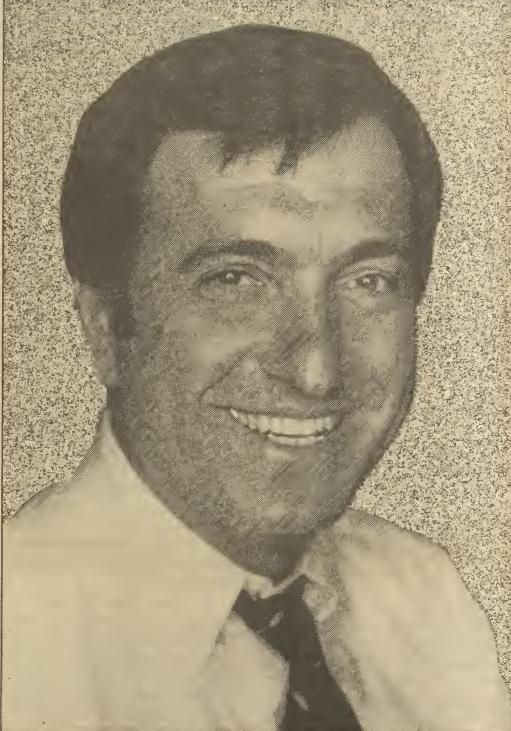
AGNOS' CRUSADE FOR GAYS

When asked why he, a married man with two children, continues to fight for Gay rights he responded, "I do it not only because I have a responsibility as an elected official. I could get away with just doing tokenism — like showing up at all the banquets and giving out plaques to people. But I do it for myself because I understand what prejudice is all about. I strongly believe what Martin Luther King said, 'Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere.' I get my energy from doing it for myself.

"If we lose our fight for Gay rights here, we lose it everywhere. So California goes, so goes the nation."

"It also affects this straight guy who has two sons because one of his sons might turn out to be Gay. I recognize that being Gay is a natural, normal, healthy variation that has existed since the beginning of humanity. I would like to say to my son if he is Gay, 'Your father fought as fiercely as he knows how for your rights.' God help us, we will hopefully have won those rights long before he needs them."

Why is it that enthusiasm over AB-1 has been minimal in San Francisco and Los Angeles, although the cities have large Gay populations? Agnos explains, "In other areas of the state Gay people live with oppression every day of their lives. That is not widely known on Castro Street. Too many of these people have



not caught on as to what has happened. They have been insulated. Gay people in San Francisco are apathetic because there is a notion that 'Everything is going well here and we are safe.' That may not be true in the future."

IS THE THREAT REAL?

The assemblyman said the threat to Gay people is enormous as State Senator H.L. Richardson is using the enthusiasm of

governor. A one-hour national television program defiling homosexuals and urging calls to the governor was broadcast to millions of people. Agnos said Richardson has learned that there is a "gold mine" available on this issue.

The intimidation by Richardson has begun, the assemblyman urges. Candidates in the June primary have been threatened because of their support of AB-1. Richardson has targeted specific pro-Gay Rights candidates for defeat and will accelerate his efforts in the November election campaign. Agnos said one candidate has had Moral Majority/Family Lobby pickets at a fundraiser and another has withdrawn her earlier support for Gay rights, under pressure from Richardson.

A new Agnos group, Californians for Justice, is soliciting funds to help politically threatened AB-1 supporters and to monitor the religious Right's involvement in politics. The assemblyman states that charges can be brought against those who attempt to mix church and state before the Attorney General and the Federal Communications Commission. He said, "The Jews and the Blacks have monitoring groups. No one else is doing it now for Gay people."

GAY STATE LOBBYING

Gay lobbying in Sacramento has been an off-and-on affair for Gay activists over the years. In

(Continued on next page)

INS to Deport Gay Australian Mate of 13 Years

by George Mendenhall

An Australian, Tony Sullivan, was visiting in Los Angeles in 1971 when he met Rich Adams, an Avis rent-a-car employee. They fell in love and when they heard that men could marry men in Boulder, Colorado, they "eloped" in 1974 and were married by a court clerk. As a married person, Sullivan could stay in the country. Or could he?

The federal Immigration and Naturalization Service denied that Sullivan and Adams were legally married. The legal notification from the INS read, "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots." Last week, after a 13-year legal battle, Sullivan was ordered deported.

Attorney David Brown, who represents the couple, again filed a federal court appeal — this time to ask a stay of the deportation. He states that it may take several months before the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals hands down a ruling.

In 1979 a Los Angeles federal judge refused to block Sullivan's expulsion. In 1980, Sullivan asked federal officials to suspend the deportation because to separate the two men would constitute an "extreme hardship." Last April, the U.S. Department of Justice ordered Sullivan to leave the country within one month. The contention was that, while separating a legally married couple might result in hardship, separating two men who are in love cannot be considered a hardship.

Adams told this reporter that he and Sullivan would stay together no matter what happens. He said, "I like it here, but neither of us wants to go back to Australia. My family and Sullivan's friends are in this country — not in Australia. We continue to play a waiting game."

(Continued from previous page)

the early 1970s a Sacramento activist, George Raya, became a self-appointed lobbyist. Raya operated with almost no funds, sometimes selling his blood so he could eat. He campaigned full-time in the halls of the Capitol for Assemblyman Willie Brown's consensual sex bill. The Brown bill was successful — after a six-year campaign.

Later, a mammoth statewide effort was launched to defeat former Assemblyman John Briggs' effort to ban Gay school teachers. Over \$500,000 was raised as Gay people took a vigorous interest in the statewide campaign. Californians rejected the Briggs proposal.

The formation of California Human Rights Advocates followed the Briggs effort. It established an office in Sacramento which was closed after a difficult two years with minimal funds.

Agnos then established his own California Legislative Human Rights Fund to obtain money to sustain the lobbying activity for AB-1. This involved bringing witnesses to Sacramento hearings and campaign materials. Over a four-year period the fund has expended \$15,000, most of it from a transfer of monies from his campaign fund to the Gay fund.

Now, there is Californians for Justice. The assemblyman states, "The new effort is a

Clela Rorex, had married six same-sex couples. The 1974 "marriages" received national publicity.

Sullivan cannot legally work, although he has some income from his skill as a painter. If he had enough money to establish himself in a profitably self-owned business, legally married a woman, or had relatives in the States, Immigration would consider letting him stay.

While the couple contend that they will not part, attorney Brown explains that if a deportation is finally enacted, there could be another problem: U.S. citizen Adams would have the same kind of problems in attempting to permanently live in Australia.

They are two men in love — but without a country. ■



Gay deportees Rich Adams (l.) and Tony Sullivan.

SF Fair Needs Volunteers

San Francisco Fair & Exposition, to be held this year at Fort Mason June 14-17, needs volunteer race monitors, beverage pourers, ticket sellers and production and stage hands, among other exotic jobs.

If you would like to work in the festive carnival atmosphere of this year's fair, please call 788-6644 for information.

Volunteers will have access to the Exhibitor Lounge where coffee and cold drinks will be served and of course, receive free admission to the Fair.

Memorial Service for Patio Cafe Owner

Wolfgang Buchhold, 41, owner-creator of The Patio Cafe, the popular Castro restaurant, passed away on Thursday, May 31, three weeks following a tragic car accident here in Northern California.

In honor of Wolfgang, who loved and enjoyed being a part of San Francisco, there will be a Memorial Celebration held at the Shakespeare Garden (near the bandshell) in Golden Gate Park on Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m. His friends are invited to attend the service. ■



Washington, D.C., political writer Larry Bush.

spinoff from the AB-1 campaign. We got AB-1 through the legislature. It took a great deal of work. It did not happen by immaculate conception. However, we need a great deal more money to counter Richardson and the fundamentalist Right. I cannot do it alone anymore, and we have discovered that there is enthusiasm for this everywhere outside of San Francisco and Los Angeles."

Long-time activist Jim Foster is serving as a volunteer in Agnos' office to help launch the CFJ. The CFJ's first fundraising appeal was mailed last month

and drew enough response to pay for the mailing.

Larry Bush, nationally-known writer/political analyst, has given up his Washington, D.C., office to join the Agnos staff here on a part-time basis. Bush is documenting cases of employment discrimination against Gay people for next year's AB-1 effort. In his veto message on AB-1, the governor indicated that he did not have enough documentation that Gay people were discriminated against. ■

G. Mendenhall

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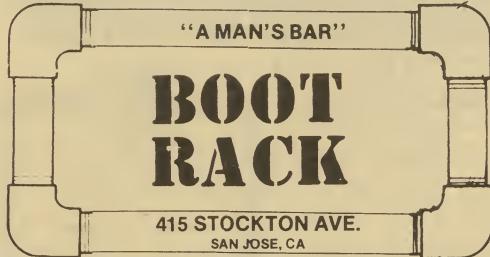
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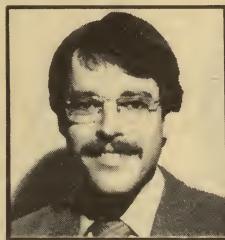
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Alameda County Supes Approve AIDS Plan

Critics Remain Skeptical

by John Wetzel

Worried health administrators last week urged Alameda County's Board of Supervisors to heed epidemiological warnings and approve their new AIDS Response Plan during a work session. The cumulative AIDS caseload, the board was told, will reach 100 by the end of the year and 200 by the end of 1985. Supervisors approved the plan 5-0, but the plan's million-dollar annual budget won't be reviewed until July 1.

"We're not asking the board for any money at this particular time," said Health Care Services Agency Director Carl Lester. "We do not believe we will have to come back to the board for any more money." Only \$74,000 for the plan is not covered in the budget, but the supervisors expressed concern that the health agency not cut other programs it administers without board approval.

The key question is no longer whether the county should provide AIDS services. Questions now revolve around when monies will be released for those services and how adequate they can be. AIDS care advocates were cool to the board's handling of the AIDS issue. They feel social services are being ignored as viable remedies.

"I think Supervisor Cooper thinks of psycho-social services as fluff," said East Bay AIDS Resources Organization (EBARO) spokesman Lupin Loughborough. "He told us that the criminal justice budget had priority over health care. We really disagree."

Testimony also was heard from the Pacific Center, Fremont's Tri-City Clinics, the Alameda Health Consortium, and AIDS patient Raymond Rice.

"What I really miss is working," Rice told the supervisors. "I miss it because it's my means of making money, obviously; I'm quite well-paid. I miss it because it's my social role and it's a way of engaging with others of my peers. So I don't have those things anymore. My dream, of course, would be to recover and be able to resume full-time work."

Alameda Health Consortium executive director Dorothy Graham, who has been active with EBARO, also feels social services are not adequately taken care of by the AIDS Response Plan.

"What happens in the plan is that these services are referred to, but there's no funding for them," said Graham. "In other words, there are many agencies that are providing services either not in Alameda County or in Alameda County with funding from the state that's about to be lost, or extremely limited funding from the county, which is even not assured for next year. However, the sad truth is these services will not be there without just a basis of county support for them."

Supervisors primarily were concerned that material not be repeated in the testimonies, as the meeting overshot its slated noon adjournment. The AIDS plan item was passed over and discussed as the last item on the

agenda.

Pacific Center Executive Director Allanya Guenther also addressed the board and said the state would be cutting off Pacific Center funding. The Pacific Center AIDS Project has taken over the service gap left when the Shanti Project moved its facilities to handle a rising San Francisco service caseload.

"We're really swamped in terms of the amount of social services that we're expected to provide for clients with AIDS," Pacific Center client advocate Audrie Morton told the supervisors. "As more and more newly-diagnosed cases come up, there is an increasing need for services, and we really need extra help."

Public health officer Carl Smith described the medical care provisions within the plan.

"We envision a system which is based upon screening activities in our existing centers, feeding into a specialty clinic which we would locate at Fairmont Hospital," Smith said. "This place will really be patterned after the successful clinic that's now at San Francisco General Hospital."

Loughborough said EBARO was "impressed" with the designated site of a specialty clinic and ward at Fairmont Hospital, and its administrator.

"The plan that they approved today is a first step," Loughborough said of the supervisors. "It's good in the medical services area. In other areas it's really deficient and sketchy, and a lot more work needs to be done."

"We're going to be talking about contracting out to Pacific Center, the AIDS Foundation, and perhaps to Shanti Project, to get them providing services in the East Bay again. That's money that Alameda County's going to have to spend."

At a rate of \$1,200 to \$2,000 per day, the current plan calls for 500 to 850 in-patient days of care per year. Further appropriations would pend revisions to the plan.



The scene at last year's East Bay Lesbian/Gay Pride Day celebration. (Photo: Rink)

No East Bay Parade

The East Bay Lesbian/Gay Celebration Committee has announced that the 1984 Celebration will not include a parade. "With the limited people resources, it was felt that we should emphasize the more traditional rally in Willard Park,

instead of trying to do too much," said co-chair Bob Kegelis. Barbara di Jeannene, the other 1984 co-chair added,

"We also were unable to procure an adequate parade route. The only route open to us would have carried us down a series of small side streets, rendering us invisible, as a community." Bob said next year, with the celebration is planned for a Downtown

park, the parade would reappear.

The Celebration will take place at Willard (Ho Chi Minh) Park on Derby Street, just above Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. The date is Sunday, June 17, from noon until 6 p.m. Speakers and entertainers are planned. For more information call the celebration office at 547-0802.

And It's Free

Gays Helping Gays at Berkeley Clinic

Gay Men's Health Collective Celebrates Seventh Year

by Charles Linebarger

For the last seven years, the Gay Men's Health Collective in Berkeley has provided the East Bay community with free and confidential testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STD's).

Jerry Thornhill, a volunteer at the collective, said that the clinic got its start when one of its founders was misdiagnosed by a straight physician. As a result of this experience, John Day and Dr. Fred Strauss co-founded the collective, to provide health care to Gay men based on their special health needs.

"As a Gay clinic," Thornhill said, "we're sensitive to our clients' living situations. When two lovers or partners wish to be seen as a couple, instead of separately, we can accommodate them."

Although most of the collective's clients, according to Thornhill, come from Berkeley, many come also from other East Bay cities as well as from San Francisco.

The collective opens a VD Clinic for drop-ins every Sunday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave. Services include routine screening for syphilis and gonorrhea (three different cultures are taken: throat, rectal, and penile) and testing for herpes if symptoms are present. All testing is done free of charge, and treatment and medication are also available free. Treatment is provided when any of the tests

shows positive for syphilis or gonorrhea, as well for venereal warts, scabies, and pubic lice (crabs).

The health care at the clinic is provided by volunteers who go through a 12-week training program. The collective advertises once a year for new volunteers.

Thornhill said that the most common diseases seen are syphilis and gonorrhea. If intestinal parasites are present the client is referred to an outside doctor. The collective would like to be able to treat this problem, Thornhill said, but limited funds make that impossible right now.

The collective's VD Clinic is funded in part by the Berkeley Free Clinic, and in part by the City of Berkeley.

Jerry Thornhill himself has been involved with the collective for a year. As with most of the other volunteers, he says, he was attracted by an announcement in the *Bay Area Reporter* asking for volunteers. He took the 12-week course and now spends about three Sunday evenings a month at the collective's VD clinic.

The clinic has six examining rooms, and depending on the size of the crowd on any particular evening, there will probably not be a long waiting period.

John Day, one of the two co-founders; Joe Gaggiano, the acting coordinator; and Rob Bou-

lier, a volunteer medic and funding coordinator, were at the clinic to provide further information on its workings. Day stressed that the Gay Men's VD Clinic on Sunday nights was only part of the services operated by the Berkeley Free Clinic. Other services are counseling and dental care, all provided free. According to Day, this is one of the only free dental care services available in the East Bay.

The collective, Day said, is

able to test for parasites as well as be able to provide workups for people concerned about AIDS.

"We see men," Day said, "not just Gay men. I would estimate that one-third of the men we see say they are straight."

The clinic has a policy, Day added, that everyone who gets in before 9 p.m. will be seen. "We tell them that if they're willing to wait, we'll be the last ones out the door."

"I would estimate that one-third of the men we see say they are straight."

— Jerry Thornhill

looking for new grant sources such as further funds from the City of Berkeley, and the Chicago Resource Center (a Gay health organization). If new monies were available, according to Day, the clinic would be operated on more nights during the week. And independent financing would insure that the Gay Men's Health Collective could continue to operate its VD Clinic regardless of whether the Berkeley Free Clinic stayed open. The clinic would also like to be

Day pointed to the sign-in table with a number of pamphlets and brochures on it dealing with STD's. He held up a packet which he said is given to every client before he leaves the clinic. It includes a brochure on AIDS and various STD's, as well as two condoms. According to Day, "We're not telling people that a condom will prevent AIDS or STD's. But we are saying that they can possibly reduce the risk. We definitely recommend them."

BOOK RACK

Lesbian Utopia

Daughters of a Coral Dawn
by Katherine V. Forrest
Naia Press; \$7.95

by Dianne Gregory

Utopia is what Katherine Forrest describes in her science-fiction novel *Daughters of a Coral Dawn*. She describes a world where everyone is warm and has enough to eat, where children are brought into the world with love, and where there are no men. What Forrest describes is obviously not everyone's utopia, but it is a pipe dream long held close to the hearts of many women.

Mother had been brought to Earth from Verna III by a man who risked years of severe punishment for her beauty. Shortly thereafter she gave birth to nine children — on Verna the number of sperm determines the number of offspring, not the number of eggs — all daughters. Other genetical quirks inherited from Mother by her daughters were her longevity, far-reaching intelligence, and predestination to bear only female children. All grew up to be geniuses in their fields. All decided to marry and have as many children as possible so that, as succeeding generations continued to breed, there would soon be a female population explosion.

Many years and 6,000 female births later, the members of the Unity meet to decide their fate. It is decided conditions on Earth are intolerable and the decision is made to leave and seek a home elsewhere in the universe. Through many dangers and trials the members of the Unity succeed in escaping Earth and building a home on faraway Maternas.

The book also traces the life of Megan, chosen to lead the Unity in its escape from Earth and settlement on Maternas. Once again Forrest brings the fantastic to life as the characters learn to live and love on Maternas. The book is well thought-out and very readable.

I don't generally like science-fiction, but I found myself caught up in the lives of these women.

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LINDA CLIFFORD

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SUNDAY/JUNE 17 /12 NOON - 5 PM

Saint James Park Downtown San Jose

La Cage Rapture

NEZ PAS

O TEMPORA! O MORES!
(A Disgusted Nose!)

Memorial weekend is traditionally not the time to plan any local function. Add to that "three-day escape time" some of the hottest weather seen hereabouts, and it should have totaled up to complete disaster for Ed Paulson and Little Mother's third AIDS auction at Town and Country, Sunday, May 27. No such thing this time, however!

It was HOT. It was STUFFY. Several coveted the open portals gasping for cooler breezes, thus blocking the entrance of any fresh currents to relieve the sudating patrons and active participants. The only air conditioning available came from eddies of wind emitting from the lips of those who were bidding! And bid they did, dear ones! On this particular sultry and sweltering afternoon, a grand total of \$1500 was contributed, raising the cumulative monies (from three auctions) to a neat \$9100! Me thinks that Ed's anticipation of \$20,000 may be just a wee bit under his envisagement.

One of my sources (from Hayward, this time) informs me that a priceless "gem" was unearthed at this auction. Ed and Little Mother didn't realize that the miniature brass/copper bed frame they let go for a mere \$5 was actually a gift from Napoleon to his beloved sister,

Pauline, before his final exile, and is conservatively estimated at a value of \$5,500,000.42! Oh well, no one's perfect. Besides, who in the hell would want to sleep in the damned thing anyway? Might as well hang it on the wall for all the use it would provide!

Thank you, La La, for the "original" autographed copy of "Queens Die Proudly," by W.L. White. And yes, hon, I DO remember Kahn's circulating library! And, how DARE Villain Al aver that yours truly was dead as of that day! Does that demirep know something I don't? Hey! Don't all answer in unison!

Hmmmm? Oh, why the "Disgusted Nose"? Well, sweet reader, as purchased treasures from the auction were being transported out the rear door, would you believe that along with the bartered merchandise went a butcher-block restaurant table and four matching chairs, belonging to Town & Country!

How BOORISH! Sam and Marv are upset — ney, pissed!

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES
(An Enraptured Nose!)

Was it all worth the admission price; standing in line for two hours at Selix; rushing from work to pick up the "soup-and-fish"; struggling to assemble and put on the damned thing; discovering, too late, that the ordered vest was, indeed, a cum-



Royalty at 'La Cage.' Arthur (l.), escort to Baroness von Dieckoff; Empress Cha Cha; and Larry, Grand Duke V, ACIE. (Photo: Rink)

merbund; finding out, with absolutely no options, that I was wearing brown socks!; hearing that the rented limosine blew up; learning that dinner reservations had been changed, again; semi-rushing through said meal; searching for a parking place (in the Tenderloin, yet!); walking for blocks in too-tight shoes; continual wrestling with the obstinate cummerbund and frilly shirt that refused to remain tucked where they belonged; fighting through the masses of spectators gathered for the pre-performance spectacle outside the Golden Gate; weaving

through (and greeting many) the throng of bodies in the lobby; craning my neck to see if I could spot all the "who who's;" discovering that the front row seats were as far stage left as one could get; impatiently monitoring my watch to see IF it, indeed, would start on time?

If you didn't experience it, you'd probably reply, "Hell, NO!"

Au Contraire, mon ami/amie!

I'm a sympathetic romantic at heart, and when "Georges" announced at the curtain opener (only two minutes late, mind you!) "... you will leave here tonight with more than a program and a ticket stub . . ." I knew that I would have crawled through a mile of Hell to be there!

Neither a professional critic's analysis, nor my inept ramblings, could ever do justice to La Case. To experience it is the truth, and, indeed, I did leave with more than a program and a ticket stub (and brown socks!)

I was truly pleased to see so many from the East Bay that I know (and love?). They were all on the same "high" as I! To attempt to mention them all would be a travesty; I'd certainly leave out some who should have started the list. Suffice it to say, Alameda County was REPRESENTED — Empress Cha Cha was truly stunning (and has several stories of her own about that evening!).

The Champagne Reception in the City Hall Rotunda was nice, but too, too crowded. Me thinks that no tickets at all were needed to enter. Ours were never checked! A half hour in that throng was enough, and none of us really like champagne. And, after all, Wednesday was a work day, and we DID have spots to "visit" on Polk Street!

Oh, by the by! All other columnists, eat your hearts out! Did I hear one "Herb" mentioned in the script? Was Mr. Marcus singled out? No mention of Wayne Friday or Randy Johnson or Karl Stewart or Dorothy Dix! Nay, NAY! But, several times during the performance everyone heard "N'est-ce Pas!" So what if my nom de plume is spelled differently? What the Hell? It still sounded the same and I felt GOOD!

To sum up La Cage aux Folles is difficult at best. Let it serve that if you remember all the "high" points from Cabaret and all the tenderness and im-

pact from A Chorus Line, plus the dash and daring of professional drag, you'll just scratch the surface of this fine, important piece of entertainment and education!

NEZ'S NOTES:

- The "table and chairs disappearing act" notwithstanding, why are Sam and Marv (Town & Country) seeking "Ass Hole of the Month" nominations? Tee Hee, I know!

- Because of four (maybe five) different simultaneous functions /events occurring on Sunday, June 10, Lady Cha Cha has to postpone her Closet Ball until July. Heaven knows that I'm fully aware of the syndrome of not being able to be in two — even three — places at the same time!

- Apologies to all concerned (not my fault, man!), but an aforementioned "High Hells Dance" contest listed here for Big Mama's, Big Mama's knew nothing about! Seems as if there were crossed wires, if you will, between the co-sponsors, an Oakland regina and a Hayward elisor, with the latter not finalizing all the essential details. Thusly, there was No choppins contest that night!

- RGD Larry informs me that reports of monies channeled through Tavern Guild cannot be "financially reported," if you will, until ALL checks clear. Two of same still haven't cleared (a second time!) from his last "basket" auction. His hands are tied right now with formalities, so don't blame him for no financial report. Blame the check bouncer! Yep, two no-no's from one person!

- S'funny how a once prominent (?) Oakland bistro proprietor, and his paramour, can jaunt to Reno frequently, and religiously bar hop on Polk Street, when EVERYONE knows that he owes practically EVERYBODY in Oakland! Why rip off a stranger when a friend(s) is so much more convenient!

- Sources tell me that Nova Lei Spears has managed to gather quite a "cast" for a forthcoming extravaganza, including the SF Gay Marching Band. More details as they become available.

- This Sunday, June 10, the Bench & Bar is presenting its third annual Mr. Lumberjack Contest, from 6 to 10 p.m. Entertainment will be by D.J. Stewart Hiatt and the Oakland Marching Corps. Raffle tickets

(Continued on next page)



You're gonna love it!

You Deserve it!

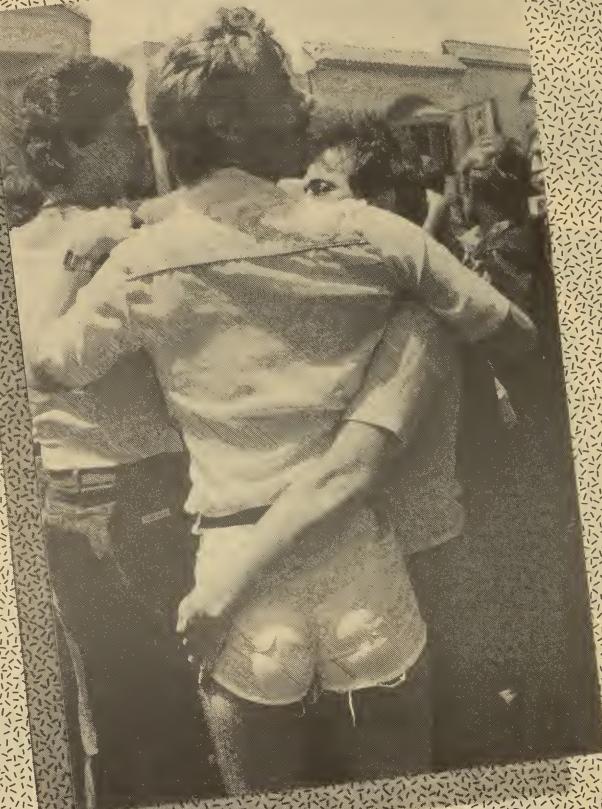
THE WATERGARDEN BATHS & RECREATION CENTER
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From Castro to Christopher

by Nick Blair



Another beautiful couple on Castro Street. I don't care what they say, I think they look great together.



Another beautiful couple on Castro Street.

UNCUT

by T.J. Hughes
© 84

That, my boy, is state of the art POSING!



T.J. Hughes
© 83

(Continued from previous page)

for a first bushel of booze will be available, with proceeds going to the Oakland Contingent Parade '84.

- Congratulations to dowager Empress Carlos and Eric, both from Lake Merritt Hotel, for placing third in the annual tricycle race on Memorial Day in SF.
- Little Mother's OLDER sister, Charles (late of Lady Fashion, Berry's, and Montclair Hair Care) is now back with Montclair Hair Design. It's upstairs, and I know she can't start a flood!

- Oh Brother — sister! In talking with Cha Cha, I learned that NOTHING has been done in the way of table decorations for her Closet Ball! Seems that requests were asked and orders given, but "lazy" ones remained idle, while she fretted and worried (along with everything else on her mind and schedule!).

Hell, I was on my third (fourth?) Rob Roy, so why not?

Yours truly volunteered to complete the task — and I'm not even in or on a court! I have three GOOD assistants in mind (Tiota, Orca, and Roberta), so if any of the "otise" courtiers proffer themselves for service, they'll come face to face with four DI's who know their stuff and expect nothing less than a person's all. Sluggards need not apply!

- Don't forget the grand opening of Fat Freddy's Paradise Grill this Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10. Free BBQ and Bingo Saturday; Sunday buffet and show. Parties will be inside and outside. Fun, games and prizes. See you there!

Harumph! I write myself a threatening letter and received a defiant reply! Dare I smile about that? Love,

Nez

FIFES



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JUNE 15, 16, & 17

FEATURING

LEATHER NIGHT

AT

DUMPS

WITH

PAUL PARKER

PREMIERING "DESIRE" SATURDAY, JUNE 16

AND

KAREN DRUCKER

AT FIFES SUNDAY, JUNE 17 AT 3PM

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JULY 4TH WEEK

JUNE 29-JULY 8

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RESERVATIONS: Must be made by July 15, 1984 and a deposit of \$50 must be paid at the time of booking. Final payment is due June 15, 1984.
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COMPLETE PRICE PER PERSON

Number of Persons	ONE PERSON	TWO PEOPLE	THREE PEOPLE	FOUR PEOPLE
3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS	\$135.00	One Bed \$89.00 Two Beds \$99.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 69.00
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Please enter my reservation Enclosed is my \$50 Deposit

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Number of Persons _____
Number of Beds _____

THIS

THURSDAY 7

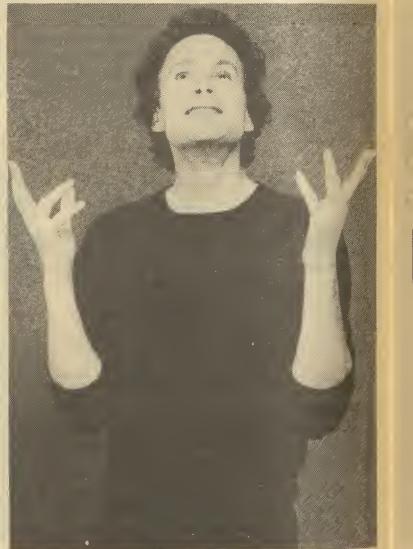
- Gradation '84: paintings by Kerry Sutton, acrylic and water color, The Bear, 440 Castro St., S.F., through July 31.
- Gay Italian-Americans: monthly meeting, Swedish-American Hall (upstairs), 2174 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM.
- Emmett: A One Mormon Show: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. This performance benefits Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons.
- Marianne Price and the Millionaires: music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5.
- Tuffy Eldridge and Christa Hillhouse: music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- 1984: stage performance, produced by Anonymity Theatrical at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7.50. A multi-media adaptation of George Orwell's classic using video monitors, closed circuit television, and projection screens. Featuring Terry Rucker as Winston Smith and Greg Tate as Obrien.
- Adele Zane: music, 132 Bush, S.F., 6 PM.
- Bad Drama: stage performance, by Richard Grey, directed by Robert W. Pittman, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8 and \$9.
- Psycho-Killer: stage performance, written and directed by Diana Saenz, Studio Rhino, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$6.
- Last Summer at Bluefish Cove: stage performance, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., S.F., 8 PM, \$15 and \$18. Award-winning playwright Jane Chambers' play about Lesbian love and death.
- Frontrunners: Fun Run, meet at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, S.F., 6 PM, free.



Bob Stuart Murphy's Reflex

FRIDAY 8

- Reflex: dance/theater, The Loft, 301 8th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10 advance. Choreographer/dancer Bob Stuart Murphy and a company of 10 men in an evening of dance and live music, incorporating visual media.
- Lesbian Rights Project: benefit in celebration of 6th anniversary, Wattie Founders' Room, Davies Symphony Hall, S.F., 5 to 7:30 PM, \$50. Special recognition will be given to Donna Hitchens, founding director. Hors d'oeuvres, champagne and wine, music by members of Bay Area Women's Philharmonic.
- Emmett: A One Mormon Show: comedy (see Thursday listing for details).
- Monica Palacios: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Monica does her Mexican thing with comic Richard Montoya and poet-humorist Antonio Burciaga.
- Kevin Ross: music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5.
- 1984: stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- The Wild Boy of Wisconsin: stage performance, Gumption Theater, 1563 Page St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. Written and performed by Gary Aylesworth, directed by Jeanette Sarmiento. Chronicles 10 months the author spent working with a self-abusive autistic boy.
- National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights: open house, 2301 Market St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free. Volunteers needed.
- Bad Drama: stage performance, \$9 and \$10 (see Thursday listing for details).
- Psycho-Killer: stage performance, \$7 (see Thursday listing for details).
- Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez: comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free. Followed by DJ Torch at 9 PM.
- Last Summer at Bluefish Cove: stage performance, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).



Emmett Foster in Emmett: A One Mormon Show, through June 30 at the Valencia Rose.

SATURDAY 9

- Maud's: 18th anniversary celebration, 937 Cole St., S.F., 9:30 PM, free. Entertainment by Pussies in Pumps, black tie optional.
- Improvisation for Women: workshop in theater games and acting exercises, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 AM to 5 PM, \$30. Taught by Terry Baum, founder of Lillith. For more information call 641-7729.
- Faye Carol: music, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 9 PM, \$7.50.
- Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day: monitor training session, The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 1 to 4 PM. If not pre-registered plan to arrive 30 minutes early. For more information call Michael at 621-3668 or Suzanne at 584-6256.
- Day Hike: Frank Valley, Coastal Trail, Muir Woods, sponsored by the San Francisco Hiking Club, meet for carpooling at the McDonald's on the corner of Stanyan and Haight Sts., S.F., 9:45 AM. Triangular route offers variety of views and vegetation, moderate hike with very short strenuous section.
- Basic Wilderness Survival Training: course sponsored by Great Outdoors for the novice-to-intermediate stressing the basics of trails leadership, first aid, and wilderness survival. For more information call Brian at 821-6773.
- HLB Blood Test and Diagnosis: sponsored by The Good Provider natural foods, 584 Castro St., S.F., all

WEEK

MONDAY 11

- Folsom Street Fair Fundraiser:** with Permanent Wave and Exposure, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- Kerrigan Black:** music, The Plush Room, 940 Sutter St., S.F., 7:30 and 9 PM, \$4. An evening of original contemporary songs with Jymme Foote on drums and Lincoln Adler on sax.
- WomanCare Health and Wellness:** presentation of Tee Corrine's slides of Women's Genitals, Lyon-Martin Clinic conference room, 2480 Mission St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free. Discussion facilitated by Doty Calabrese, M.A., educator and facilitator of Lesbian sexuality workshops. Call 641-0220 for a reservation. Space is limited.
- Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Tom Ammiano and Kelly Kittell, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Performer sign-up 7:30 PM.
- Media Meeting:** National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights, 2301 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Volunteers needed.
- Marianna Price and the Millionaires:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- Social Dance Classes:** Ollie's, 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Learn the two-step, waltz, swing, and popular western dances. Drop in any Monday; classes taught by Fay Cuthbertson. For more information call 588-7113 or 731-2527.

TUESDAY 12

- Radical Women:** open meeting, 523-A Valencia St., S.F., dinner 6:45 PM (\$3), meeting 7:30 PM. Guest speakers to commemorate Lesbian/Gay Pride Month on the theme of Lesbians of Color: Fighters in Words and Action. Call 864-1278 for more information.
- Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day:** monitor training session, The Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7 to 10 PM. For more information call Michael at 621-3668 or Suzanne at 584-6256.
- Lyon-Martin Clinic:** annual meeting, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 7 to 8:30 PM. Election of board of directors. Call 641-0220 for more information and childcare reservations. If sign is needed, please call the clinic.
- Gay Paris: Past and Present:** slide presentation by Gerard Koskovich, doctoral candidate in Art History at Stanford, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4. Koskovich has researched Gay social history in New York and Paris and is a member of the American Historical Association's Committee on Lesbian/Gay History. Part of the Gay and Lesbian Pioneers series. For more information and reservations call 863-3863.
- Mame's Medley:** music, with Miller and Muir, Denise Deneaux, and Hughes and Pulling, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$4.
- International Folk Dancing:** with Rob Daoud, Nova Academy, 347 Dolores St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, \$2.
- Lisa Pawlak:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

SUNDAY 10

- Castro Street Dog Show and Parade:** fourth annual dog show and street party, Castro St. between 18th and 19th, S.F., 11 AM. Benefits San Francisco General Hospital Ward 5B, outpatient clinic, and Coming Home (affiliate of Hospice of S.F.). Sharon McNight will emcee. Categories: best smile, best buns, best legs, best trick, best costume, best match to owner, best old dog, best puppy, best groomed, and best of show. A 1984 Celebrity Dog Award will also be presented. Entry forms (50 limit) available at Headlines, 549 Castro St. or 1217 Polk St. Entry fees: \$15 general or \$50 business or organization sponsorship. Win up to \$1000 cash and more through the dog show lottery, tickets \$1, book of 12 for \$10. All dogs must be restrained at all times. Music and entertainment throughout the day. For more information call 861-2215.

- Professionals Over 30:** potluck dinner, Oakland near Lake Merritt, 1 PM. Call Neil (874-6500 days, 832-0986 evenings/weekends) to coordinate provisions and for carpool and public transit information. Come prepared to suntan on an outdoor patio. Newcomers welcome.

- Crysantherium Ragtime Band:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 4 PM, \$3.

- The Beachhead:** the new vaudeville team Laughing Moon Theater with emcee Kiri Welch of KPFA, and a discussion of the effects of the Democratic National Convention on politics in San Francisco with Jim Shoch, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. For information and reservations call 863-3863.

- Bye-Bye Verdi:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 3:30 PM, \$5. A light-hearted look at Grand Opera with Sam Bittner and five local "stars of tomorrow."

- 1984:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- Unitarian-Universalist Gay and Lesbian Caucus:** monthly meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Maury Loomis will present "New Delights from Maury's Magic Lantern: A Video Update on Gays on TV."

- FrontRunners:** Lake Merritt, Oakland, 5 or 10K, 10 AM. Begins at white columns on east side of the lake.

- Bad Drama:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- The Linda Tillary Jazz Quartet:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free. With Mary Watkins, Bonnie Johnson and Mark Van Wageningen. Followed by DJ Susan Puckett at 9 PM.

WEDNESDAY 13

- Tom Ammiano and Jane Dornacker:** comedy, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5, with special guests.
- New Women's Films:** Iris, a women's film company, screens new films in a benefit for the Nancy Shaw Legal Defense Fund, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4 to \$6.
- Bad Drama:** stage performance, (see Thursday listing for details).
- Lady Bianca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.



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A BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

STAGE

100 Limos

La Bash aux Show for 'La Cage aux Folles'

Thousands Cheer the Action — and That Was Outside the Theater

by Allen White

More than 2,000 people jammed the Golden Gate Theatre for the first West Coast performance of *La Cage aux Folles*. Outside, several thousand more showed to watch the first-night festivities. The glamour, creativity, money, and hard work of San Francisco's Gay community paid off in a spectacle of glamour, elegance, and high camp. More than 100 limousines were rented for the night, reportedly a record. At one point the cars stretched up Golden Gate Avenue for three blocks.

Theatergoers enjoyed the product of three months' work by members of the Cable Car Awards Board of Directors and 400 volunteers. The Community United Against Violence provided 60 monitors to help clear a path to the theater. Working with the San Francisco Police, the street had been closed, and an orderly traffic pattern developed.

tion in the balcony, were in several of the stretch limousines. Jaguar Book Store owner Ron Ernst, who had purchased the first three rows of the theater, arrived in his most chic formal attire.

From a block away, the full sound of motorcycle engines roared as the Dykes on Bikes began down the street. They too



Mob Scene. The limos line up as crowds jam the sidewalk in front of the Golden Gate Theatre before the La Cage aux Folles benefit last week. (Photo: T. Plewak)

everyone was in the theater ten minutes before the 8 p.m. starting time. The theater gave the event a ten-minute grace period, and at 8:10 the overture to the first West Coast performance of

La Cage aux Folles began.

At a few minutes after eleven, the crowd began to leave the theater, following a sustained standing ovation for the show. By limousine, motorized cable car, and cab, those who had paid for the \$50, \$75, and \$100 seats made their way to San Francisco City Hall. Upon entering, they were given a glass of champagne poured by a group of volunteers headed up by Gordon Armstrong, the head trial attorney in the San Francisco Public Defender's office. Later, Dykes on Bikes worked the crowd, offering refills.

The rotunda had been transformed with lights and flags for the reception. Jim McMillan had begun work several weeks ago on plans to send color washes to the rotunda dome and special highlights to the marble staircase. Gilbert Baker hung rainbow flags at the second floor level, and red flags, used for the reception for the Premier of China, were mingled with dozens of San Francisco flags. Efficient bartenders from Maud's and Amelia's set up a full bar.

David Kelsey and Pure Trash provided the primary entertain-

ment for the night. At midnight, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus began its entrance down the staircase to entertain. They were followed by the surprise introduction of Sylvester, who chose to sing for the black-tie crowd. Through a misstep, just as he began to sing, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Band began to march down the staircase. With their brand new uniforms they looked like a rainbow waterfall cascading directly toward a surprised Sylvester.

Sylvester then followed the band's performance and gave the audience one of those priceless unrehearsed performances that people can talk about years later. Backed by David Kelsey on organ and Doug Woods on drums, he launched into a driving jazz version of "Stormy Weather."

Bob Cramer, Chair of the Cable Car Awards, introduced *La Cage* producer Allan Carr and presented him with a plaque. He then introduced Walter Charles, the star of the show, who was greeted by a thunderous ovation. The cast had been thrilled by the audience reaction to the show, and it was for Walter Charles to con-

(Continued on next page)



Sylvester belts one out at the apres-La Cage party in the City Hall rotunda. (Photo: Rink)

At 7 p.m., the Empress de San Francisco, Remy, emerged from a Rolls limousine, accompanied by Chris Puccinelli and Mister Marcus, to act as official hosts. They were soon followed by the San Francisco Gay Marching Band and Flag Corps.

Then the limos began to roll up. It became clear what formal was to be the dress code. Most of the men were in tuxedos. On the other hand, some weren't—if drag is an art, it was honed to perfection for the event. Michelle, a popular Gay entertainer, arrived in white tulle and sequins. Disco diva Sylvester was aided from a silver stretch limousine in full drag wearing a dashing black taffeta and velvet full-length gown.

A motorized cable car arrived from Googie's carrying several of the people from the bar which had, last February, purchased a whopping \$6,000 in tickets. The Coits social club members, who purchased almost an entire sec-

went formal, with black tie to accent lavender coats and their new rainbow flags. As cameras blocked the way, the group made its way through the crowd. It turned out that every major local television station and two networks sent crews to cover the event.

At 7:30, with two lanes opened up to accommodate the many limousines, the Hayward Raw Raha miraculously opened an area for an on-street performance. It became the height of organized chaos. People were being introduced, cars were arriving with people sipping champagne or taking a toot of coke, the Raw Rahs were performing and Tenderloin panhandlers were trying their best to figure a way to work the crowd.

The most critical time point was reached at 7:50. Event planners were faced with the real possibility that ticketholders might not make it into the theater before the curtain went up. Primarily because of CUAV,



Sharon McNight plays to the crowd at the apres-La Cage party in the City Hall rotunda. (Photo: Rink)

Carr Snubs Gays

(Continued from page 1)

The Saturday before the show, Bob Cramer and others connected with the benefit learned from Carr that Jerry Herman and Harvey Fierstein would not attend. The night before the show, it was learned that no person associated with *La Cage aux Folles* would be permitted on the platform in front of the theater. Every person requested, including producers, directors, choreographers, and costume designers, had a reason why they could not appear in front of the crowd.

Allan Carr, the *La Cage* pro-

marching in the parades. This is not what the Gay community is really about. The sequins belong onstage. Come and see it in a show. I don't want sequins to be what's discussed on an evening news report about the Gay community."

Sequins did get discussed on the evening news report on *La Cage aux Folles*. So did the other activities relating to the big bash. If Allan Carr wanted to shift the focus, he could have provided glamorous Hollywood stars for the event. The official opening night is June 10, and, like magic, you can expect a carload of stars to come for that one.

'It was becoming apparent Carr and his crowd did not want the general public to make a connection between the Gay audience and their show.'

ducer, said the festivities in front of the theater would be a "circus." Where was Carr coming from? An explanation may be found in the Vito Russo interview with Carr in the current issue of *The Advocate*. Russo quotes Carr as saying, "All anyone ever sees is the Mr. Buns Contest and outrageous people in sequins on the local news,

Significantly, other topics were discussed relating to the benefit performance. The *Oakland Tribune* ran a touching story about the San Francisco AIDS Fund the day of the event. After the story appeared, writer Jane Ghent of the *Tribune* received a telephone call from Allan Carr. Ghent was surprised to hear that Carr was disturbed



Allan Carr signs an autograph at the apres-*La Cage* bash in the City Hall rotunda. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay WHEN Gay WHY

La Cage Sweeps Tony Awards

La Cage aux Folles, now playing at the Golden Gate Theatre, swept the Tony Awards last Sunday in New York. The play not only won the award for Best Musical, but Harvey Fierstein won the award for Best Book, Jerry Herman won the award for Best Score, George Hearn won the award for Best Actor in a Musical, Arthur Laurents won the award for Best Director, and Theoni V. Aldredge won the award for Best Costume Designer, for a total of six awards.

"This award forever shatters a myth," Herman told the audience at the annual theater awards ceremony. "There's been a rumor that the simple, hummable show tune is dead on Broadway. Well, it's alive and well at the Palace," where *La Cage* is playing in New York. ■

Theatre Rhino Playwriting Contest

Theatre Rhinoceros is sponsoring the National Lesbian

Playwriting Contest to develop and encourage theater pieces about the Lesbian experience. The contest offers a first prize of \$1,000 and production, a second prize of \$500, and the opportunity for playwrights to make connections with and have their work read by directors and theater artists of the Bay Area and across the nation. Final selection will be made by a national panel of theater artists.

Theatre Rhinoceros is one of the nation's most prominent Gay and Lesbian theaters. Founded in 1977 in San Francisco, the theater has two stage facilities—a mainstage theater with a subscription audience of 2200, and a studio space geared toward the production of experimental pieces and works in progress.

Originally a Gay theater, two years ago Theatre Rhinoceros made a commitment to reach out and try to serve the Lesbian community in the Bay Area, in the belief that Lesbians and Gays have much to share and learn from each other. Two of the six mainstage productions this season have been Lesbian pieces, and the theater hopes to make it three in the '84-'85 season.

All scripts submitted as contest entries must be unpublished and unproduced. Deadline for

that she had focused her story on a person with AIDS and not on his show.

It was becoming apparent Carr and his crowd did not want the general public to make a connection between the Gay audience and their show.

The only request made inside the theater relating to the performance was that the show be dedicated to Theatre Rhinoceros founder Allan Estes, who recently died of AIDS. The request was denied. It was concluded that the *La Cage* producers would control their theater, and, conversely, the Cable Car Awards would control the party given at City Hall. That common courtesy was breached when Allan Carr grabbed the microphone from David Kelsey because he had decided he wanted to make a speech at the City Hall party. One week before the Democratic primary, speeches were the last thing the Cable Car Board wanted to burden the party crowd with.

The introduction of Walter Charles, the star of the show, to the Gay crowd in City Hall was held until there were no known straight media people in the crowd. It was the only time during the night when *La Cage* on

stage would officially get close to the Gay audience.

Many observers speculated that Allan Carr and his advisors simply may not understand the San Francisco Gay community. Possibly they don't understand that Gay people work without shame in virtually all aspects of city life. Possibly Carr doesn't

realize that these people insist on being treated as first-class citizens. Nobody was going to allow the building of an imaginary fence around downtown San Francisco so the straight media could not see the Gay community on one of its finest nights. ■

A. White

(Continued from previous page)

vey that to the City Hall crowd.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Mixed Chorus then followed with several songs, including "One" from *A Chorus Line*. They were followed by the unexpected appearance of Sharon McNight. David Kelsey worked out an arrangement on the spot, and the popular singer belted out her songs in her own unique style. Throughout the night, David Kelsey's professionalism kept the entertainment in some kind of order as he was thrown curve after curve in scheduling changes.

At 1 a.m. the bash wound to an end. For many, the night continued as they chose to venture to a favorite bar to critique the evening. At Cafe San Marcos, the bar was a mix of Castro casual and black tie. At 1:30, Darrell Carey entered the bar. There was a momentary hush—then thunderous applause erupted. Carey almost stole the show as he portrayed the role of the riotous Black maid/butler in *La Cage aux Folles*. It seemed the perfect ending to an unforgettable evening. ■

A. White

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Birimisa's plays have been produced in the United States, Canada and England. His *Pogey Bait* was performed at Theatre Rhinoceros in 1982 under the direction of Allen Estes. He has been listed in *Who's Who*, *Contemporary Authors* and the *Gay Engagement Calendar*. For the last two years Birimisa has been active with Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (affiliated with Operation Concern) where he conducts a Writing Workshop and a rap group.

For more information on the playwriting class call George at 431-6254. ■

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STAGE

YOU DECIDE

*One Reviewer Hates the Play,
One Likes It*

No Drama is Bad Drama

by Brian Jones

Remember telling Dad the Big News? "Dad, I'm . . . uh . . . hmm! . . . Gay." Or, perhaps, pre-Anita: "... a . . . ho-mo-sex-ual." Maybe Dad walked in on you and the other guy, in *flagrante delicto*, sparing you the build-up — if not the embarrassment.

It was bad drama. And it's a scene to be relived as Father's Day approaches. So subject and timing are appropriate for *Bad Drama*, showing through July 7 at Theatre Rhinoceros.

How can this play go wrong? It's a perfect set-up. The relationships between Gay men and their Dads are charged with tension. Go see *Bad Drama* and you'll see how it can go wrong. The problem isn't bad drama — the problem is no drama.

We go in wanting to like this play. We go in primed with our own life experiences, knowing the great potential this theme holds. And we're treated to a first act in which the three characters — Dad, Son, and

Son's Lover — make nice, and, for the most part, offer each other warm fuzzies.

Oh, there is portent — a few evil inklings of things to come. There are a few dark clouds around the edges of an otherwise happy scene — but so few it only underscores how silly and sunny the main action is. And there are a few dark hints around the edges of the dialogue. We know that Collin, the son, has something gnawing at him. The first clue is early.

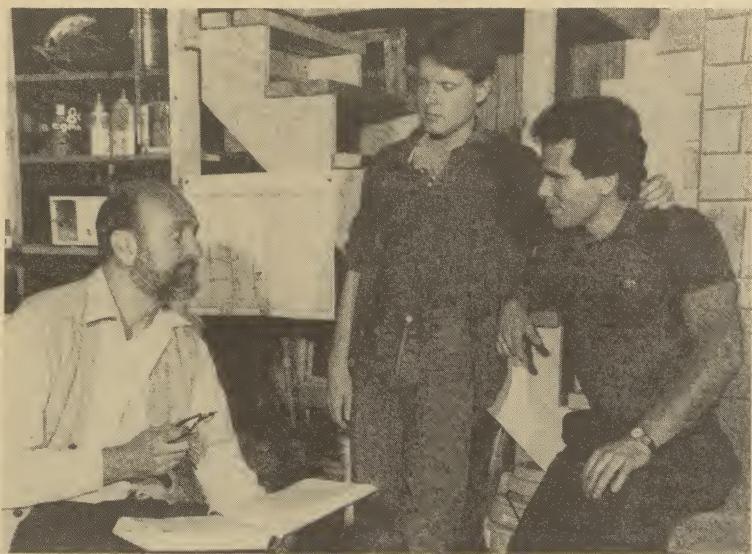
Collin: "It's not the new things that scare me. It's the old things."

Dad: "Like what?"

Collin: "Like . . . nothing."

Not much, huh? That's it — the dramatic tension of the first act, the conflict which is expected to carry us through two-thirds of the performance. It doesn't.

We keep hoping this is some sort of Jane Austen schtick. We



Russell Dado (l.), Keno Rider, and Harvey Sacks in *Bad Drama*.

Bad Drama as Metaphor

by Bernard Spunberg

How do families get so fucked up? In Richard Gray's *Bad Drama*, currently onstage at Theatre Rhinoceros, a father, his Gay son, and the son's lover confront each other in an old theater being restored by the father. gingerly, painfully, the three men move toward love based on knowledge and acceptance. Though *Bad Drama* does not live up (or down) to its title, it is not perfect. The central metaphor of bad actors incapable of expressing a playwright's conception for real people incapable of expressing themselves is strained, convoluted, and only tangentially relevant to the play.

By the time we get to the denouement, we don't care. There has never been a real clash. Who cares that things are now settled? It's like laying back and lighting up a cigarette after two minutes of foreplay.

Louis (the son's lover): "There's no crime here — just fear and misunderstanding."

Right. No drama, either.

My pulse did quicken during several parts of the dialogue. That was a reaction to the play's underlying message. The message of this work — and it's a heavy one — is dangerous hogwash.

The message of this play is that Daddy really loves and understands and approves of his son, the . . . uh . . . ho-mo-sexual. The only problem is that the son can't accept Daddy's approval. In conversations between Dad and Louis, the son's lover, Louis asks: "But you do understand it?"

Dad: "Yes — of course."

This unlikely fantasy is continued as Dad says utterly unbelievable things like, "When he finally wrote us and told us he was in love with you, I was relieved," and "I officially welcome you into the rest of the family." Come on. Is this guy president of Parents and Friends of Gays or what?

Life's not like that. While we crave approval from Dad, most of us don't get it. And that's okay. We don't get it because Dad is straight, and straights really do have a hard time figuring us out. Most of us finesse the issue — juggling the conflict one way or the other so Dad won't quit talking to us entirely — especially on Father's Day. And it is, indeed, bad drama.

The lie of this script is, it erases that conflict. In doing so, it is a disservice to Gay audiences. We grow by facing life's struggles — not by pretending they're not there.

Why, we wonder, is this guy being so rude to his nice father? The shit hits the fan in the second act, however, when Rider nails the father with choice examples of past destructive insensitivity. Unfortunately for dramatic consistency, most of the son's injuries could have been avoided by clear communication on his own part. The son is essentially a whining, spoiled brat, but Rider's characterization adds a conflicted, ambiguous dimension that lends the role a measure of depth and believability.

In the role of the lover, Harvey Sacks dodges the father-son crossfire while spouting playwright Gray's ideas about parallels between phony acting, onstage and in real life. Sacks' hammy flair is welcome in the philosophical bits, but irritating in tender moments with his lover. The two men are believable as friendly roommates, but are they lovers? When are we going to see real tenderness and intimacy between men onstage? Still, *Bad Drama* centers not on the lovers' relationship but on that of the two men as individuals with the father.

Director Robert W. Pitman delineates the purpose and intensity of each of the play's confrontations with a sure hand. The son's early dialogue with his father, though superficially friendly, is fraught with tension that finally explodes with satisfying inevitability. Father and lover reach intimacy with a speed possible only in a relationship with no history. Pitman gives the lovers affectionate banter that helps establish the nature of their relationship. His use of a spotlight trained on each of the characters in turn works as theater and as literature.

Playwright Gray's characterization of the father is almost too good to be true. Warm and accepting of his son's boyfriend, he does turn out to have failings, but never reports even a twinge of regret that his child turned out to be Gay. Russell Dado's portrayal of the father captures the generosity, the tenderness, and the confused disappointment of a man who has given unconditional love to an image, an assumption, rather than a person. Dado reveals the father's core when he tells his son's lover, "My son is in love with you and he thinks I don't understand that. And that kills me."

Keno Rider gives the son a preppy pout in the first act.

My father barely knows who I am. How can he love me just because I am his son? And yet he does. I hear it in his voice, see it in his eyes and in every move he makes. In *Bad Drama* we see the price exacted by years of faulty communication. More important, we see the depth and power of parental love. Those lucky enough to receive it — not everyone is so blessed — can do no better than to return it.

Bad Drama
Theatre Rhinoceros
Through July 7; 861-5079

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STAGE

WHOOPS!

Whoopi Goldberg Just Doesn't Make It as Moms Mabley

by Bernard Spinberg

Heavy advertising and inflated ticket prices guarantee nothing. Neither do glowing reviews — they're just opinions. Whoopi Goldberg's *Moms*, a recreation of Black comic Moms Mabley currently in production at the Victoria Theatre, disappoints in direct proportion to the press hype preceding it. Which means the show disappoints on a grand scale — wait. No. This show is too puny to do anything on a grand scale.

I saw the real Moms Mabley on TV about twenty times. I'll never forget her. She'd amble onto the set of the *Merv Griffin Show* dressed in turned down sailor's cap, tatty housedress, mismatched coat, and tennis shoes, plop herself down next to Zsa Zsa Gabor, and I'd know immediately which of the two women was the authentic human being. Chewing away at her gums — her dentures were uncomfortable, and Moms

never endured discomfort for the sake of propriety — Moms would cut loose with the most outrageous talk. It was about men, mostly. "I don't want no old men. Send me young men." At that time, Moms was about seventy.

Whoopi Goldberg sanitizes Moms. Oh, there's a couple of funny nasty jokes. There's even some (unobjectionable) Gay humor. But Goldberg never



Whoopi Goldberg as Moms Mabley

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

Gremlins

For Fun and Profit

The *Gremlins* are really Mogwais, but who would pay to see a movie called *Mogwais*?

If Steven Spielberg had anything to do with it, just about everybody in the world, He's executive producer of *Gremlins*. The funny thing is, when Disney started making movies like *Gremlins*, people stopped going to Disney movies.

Spielberg's spirit is on every frame of film, even if Chris Columbus is the writer of record and Joe Dante the official director. Disney took everything, especially the nuclear family, too seriously. Spielberg knows just where in his cheek to put his tongue when he revives hoary '50s clichés, and he's irreverent enough to treat the ultimate sacrifice — blowing up a movie theater — as a good thing.

The villains are those who have or seek large amounts of wealth (like Spielberg himself?). Chief among them is Polly Holliday as a female Ebenezer Scrooge patterned after Margaret Hamilton in *The Wizard of Oz*. The heroes are the poor and the dreamers, excepting one man who is unemployed but keeps a Nixon poster in his house and hates everything foreign.

Hoyt Axton is the would-be inventor who brings the Mogwai home as a

Christmas gift for his son, Zach Galligan. He passes on three rules: keep it away from bright light and water, and never feed it after midnight.

Rules are made to be broken, especially in movies like this; so we soon learn that lights just scare the Mogwais, while water makes them throw off furballs which turn into new, less benevolent models. And when they eat after midnight — don't ask! You see, when the Mogwais are at their very worst they act just like people.

The first hour of *Gremlins* is pure comedy; the rest is "the scary part," but never without humor. It becomes a '50s movie (e.g. *The Blob*) in which the young people try to warn the town of danger, but no one listens so they have to save the day themselves. The moral, again from the '50s: "Someday (humankind) may be ready . . ."

References to old movies come thick and fast. The big-eared Mogwai easily relates to Clark Gable on TV. There are clips from other films, and "Robby the Robot" makes a cameo appearance with his *Forbidden Planet* dialogue intact.

Gremlins is such total fun that you can overlook the nagging feeling that the creature — which is about to be merchandised to death — and its marketing plans were designed first and a plot built around them. Any flaws you might point out, such as phony snow and corny dialogue, are

(Continued on next page)

shows us Moms' raw, crude humanity. When Goldberg puts her hand on her hip, we feel no arthritic pain. When the subject turns to sex, we see no devilish leer. At the end of the show, Goldberg invokes the names of Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and the assassinated Kennedys. The effect is knee-jerk liberal sentimentalism with no sense of history crowding in. Goldberg never makes good on Moms' most famous threat: "Parents, don't send your children to see Moms if you don't want 'em to know the truth. 'Cause I'll hit 'em." Goldberg's Moms hips nobody.

Even the technical aspects of the show, managed by director Ellen Sebastian, are blown. A pre-show tape featuring Black performers of yesteryear goes on for twice the length appropriate before petering out. The pianist enters with no spotlight or introduction. Stylishly tacky colored lights flash when Goldberg finally appears, but after waiting so long, we just can't get as excited as we should.

Whoopi Goldberg has been

making a splash in the media lately. One of her solo pieces, "The Spook Show," has earned rave reviews in the national press — how nice to see a local artist get famous — and there is talk of her starring in the film version of *The Color Purple*. I've seen bits of her act on TV and have been impressed. Is Moms really characteristic of the current state of Whoopi Goldberg's art? ■

Moms
Victoria Theatre
Through June 30; 863-6667

tensity.

Bluefish Cove is only peripherally a love story, and the recent addition of some kisses does not enhance the drama. Still, *Bluefish Cove* is well worth a visit. Maybe even for a whole summer. ■

Last Summer at Bluefish Cove
Theatre on the Square
Through July 8; 433-9500

A Skeptic Convinced

Meriwether Gives Gutsy Performance in 'Bluefish Cove'

by Bernard Spinberg

Skeptical me. I doubted former Miss America Lee Meriwether's ability to convince me that she belonged in *Bluefish Cove*. I needn't have worried. Not only is Meriwether wonderful, the whole show is better than ever.

Jane Chambers' *Last Summer* at *Bluefish Cove*, currently enjoying an extended run at the Theatre on the Square, deals with a group of Lesbian friends vacationing at a seaside retreat. A straight woman wanders in, and the result is a tender, bittersweet drama about life and love. Yes, Virginia, it is universal. But the universality of *Bluefish Cove* is expressed in Lesbian terms, and the play won't work unless the Lesbianism is believable.

As directed by Marshall Mason, who is Gay and out, the Lesbianism is better than believable: it's joyful. Loving women's voices have a special sound, and the women of *Bluefish Cove* laugh, cry, and love with uninhibited honesty that makes Gay audiences say, "At last! My people live onstage with no apologies."

Lee Meriwether tackles her challenging role with gusto. Some moments are unexpectedly girlish, but they are balanced by gritty self-knowledge that adds up to a multi-dimensional portrait. Other favorites in the ensemble are Camilla Carr, whose characterization of a feminist doctor has dropped the mugging while retaining the comedy, and Nora Heflin, who knows how to evoke emotion without sentimentality.

Katherine Cortez as the straight woman captures all the

conflict of someone on the brink of shattering discovery. She forges ahead confidently, retreats in fear, and experiences growth with heartbreaking intensity.

Bluefish Cove is only peripherally a love story, and the recent addition of some kisses does not enhance the drama. Still, *Bluefish Cove* is well worth a visit. Maybe even for a whole summer. ■

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a medieval rock fantasy

Written, directed and produced by

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(Continued from previous page)
easily excused as part of the old moviegoing experience that's being recreated here.

If I'm giving Spielberg too much credit, he deserves it — if for no reason other than enabling Gremlins to be made. ■

Coronet

S. Warren

Star Trek III

Wasted Space

Real Trekkies don't care what critics think about Star Trek III: The Search for Spock. Real Trekkies go into hyperorgasm just from reading the cast list: William Shatner as Admiral Kirk; DeForest Kelley as Dr. "Bones" McCoy; James Doohan as Chief Engineer "Scotty" Scott; Walter Koenig

as Chekov; George Takei as Sulu; Nichelle Nichols as Uhura, etc. (Was it good for you, too?)

If you really care you already know whether or not they find Mr. Spock, who became one with the universe in the last episode, and don't need me to tell you. (I won't, anyway.)

The story picks up at the end of Star Trek II, with Spock's death and the transmission of his remains to the newly enlivened planet Genesis. The bereaved crew of the Enterprise soon learns that Spock is a soul survivor and has transferred his brains to Bones. The search, then, is for his body, which disappears from the tomb faster than you can say "Happy Easter." Their old enemies, the Klingons, are on hand to cause trouble.

For the worst of the Star Trek movies, this one looks as much made for TV as the old series did. The dreadfulness of the dialogue goes beyond camp, there are enough close-ups that they should have called it Star Turns, and the visual effects are the cheesy sort that were rendered obsolete by 2001: A Space Odyssey, let alone the Star Wars trilogy.

At about 150, guest star Dame Judith Anderson is one of the younger cast members. The others should move into a retirement home together so they can film future episodes there without going out.

Better yet, they should forget future episodes if they can't do better than Star Trek III: The Search for Spock. ■

(Royal)

S. Warren



Looking for Mr. Pointyears. This Enterprising quintet (l. to r.: George Takei, Walter Koenig, James Doohan, William Shatner, DeForest Kelley) doesn't think to look behind the camera for Leonard Nimoy, director of Star Trek III: The Search for Spock.

Streets of Fire

A Different Dreamer

Walter Hill made some interesting films (e.g. Hard Times, The Long Riders) before he learned to be both entertaining and commercial with 48 HRS. Streets of Fire falls somewhere between, most resembling The Warriors of all the director's previous oeuvre.

The Natural gets away with being more myth than pith because it's — well, wonderful. Streets of Fire is subtitled "A Rock & Roll Fable," but it's not quite fabulous. Its unique pacing and visual style carry it for a surprisingly long time before we question whether being different is enough.

Set in a composite city of neon, '50's cars and backlot streets, the movie features Michael Pare (Eddie and the Cruisers) as Tom Cody, a young John Wayne/Clint Eastwood type. He's a little too pretty, but carries off the archetype rather well.

The story opens at a concert by Ellen Aim (Diane Lane) and her band, the Attackers. Another band of attackers is aiming for Ellen, and they kidnap her. Cody, her old boyfriend, is hired by her wimpy new boyfriend/manager (Rick Moranis) to get her back. "They always hire bums like me for jobs like this," he says.

Cody's sidekick is a dyke named McCoy, played by Amy Madigan. She never refers to herself as a Lesbian, but

uses the euphemism "soldier." At one point she talks about a man she loved, "before I was a soldier." Although she tells Cody, "You're not my type," there's always a hint of attraction between them to let non-Gay audiences feel there's hope for her.

Diane Lane's character, a rock singer slicker than Grace and more pat than Benatar, is weakly written and acted. Ry Cooder's score is good, but the script doesn't back it up with enough plot to sustain what is basically a feature length music video. Still, it's worth your while, especially if you like movies in which motorcycles and fists go together — but not that way! ■

(Regency II)

S. Warren



Streetsfighters — gun-toting Lesbian Amy Madigan (c.) and Diane Lane, who is more interested in cleavage than carnage, stand with Michael Pare against a motorcycle gang in Streets of Fire.

(Continued on next page)

TALES OF TESSI TURA

Into the Dragon's Lair

GEORGE HEYMONT

Looking for a hero who isn't linked to special interest groups? Your best bet might be to rummage through the operatic repertoire. Butch, blond Siegfried recently returned to town in the third installment of San Francisco Opera's new *Ring* cycle and — in today's age of media hype — his presence is refreshingly natural. Yes, the young superhero who can slay dragons on his lunch break is just as young, strong, and stupid as ever. What a relief to know that some things never change!

Some opera fans think that because of its relatively small cast Siegfried is an easy opera to produce. Not by a longshot! The lack of heldentenor today, the special scenic effects required by the composer's libretto, and the dramatic suspense necessary to keep an audience on edge through nearly five hours of music place extreme demands on a production's producer, designer, director, and conductor.

Special credit goes to John Conklin and Thomas J. Munn for their work in Act II where

Conklin's woodland setting is the finest I've seen in any *Ring* production. Exquisitely shaded by Munn's lighting designs, the wildwood outside Fafner's cave glows with the lush autumnal colors of the forest in its full majesty. The dragon is appropriately fierce and furious.

It was obvious that a great deal of care and attention had gone into producing this mammoth work. One could quibble with certain minor details in Nikolaus Lehnhoff's interpretation. For example, why is Mime wearing designer goggles inside

his cave? They hadn't been invented in early civilization. That aside, the overwhelming success of this new production presented the San Francisco Opera with a sorely-needed triumph. The creative team's intense efforts paid off handsomely.

Edo de Waart's conducting kept the music taut and full of dramatic suspense, often eliciting surprisingly sensual textures from the score's more threatening moments — an effect which imbued this Siegfried with a genuine sense of primitive adventure. Lehnhoff's direction was, for the most part, highly creative and insightful, although I was disappointed to hear the crucial transition between Scenes 1 and 2 of Act III played as before a scrim. This sublime erotic music — so geographically critical to the plot — receives its full orgasmic treatment in the Met's more stylized production as Brunhilde is thrust up from the deep and the Met's ring-shaped platform comes together for the first time in an orgy of Freudian symbolism. Here, alas, the music's inherent sexual power was undermined by being performed under such sterile conditions.

BRUNNHILDE LOSES HER CHERRY

Of the cast, only Stanley Wexler's Alberich failed to make the grade. Thomas Stewart's Wanderer was blessed with stunning sonority. As authoritatively dramatic as ever, the bass-baritone's voice resounded with a rich maturity one doesn't often hear. Helmut Pampuch's Mime was solidly sung and acted but, again, I question some of the ways in which Lehnhoff directed his dwarf. Stalwart support came from Helga Dernesch as Erda, James Patterson as Fafner, and Cheryl Parrish as the Forest Bird.



"Hang On, We're Coming to the Final Curtain!" Brunhilde (Eva Marton) carries Siegfried (Rene Kollo) to the finish line in Wagner's five-hour epic music drama.

is merely an appetizer for Marton's other Brunhildes. The power and musicianship is there, all right — which make Marton's performance on opening night electrifying.

Next summer brings six complete *Ring* cycles to San Francisco audiences — enough for junkie overload. On first viewing, San Francisco Opera's new production of Siegfried is a most impressive job. How well the final piece of the puzzle, *Gotterdamerung*, will fit into place remains to be seen. If you're looking for heroic achievements, you'll be there. ■

FILM CLIPS

Impostors

Swann/Swain and Twin/Twain or Impostorous

"One Gay says to the other Guy, 'Who was that woman I saw you soul kissing last night?' and the other says, 'That was no woman. That was your boyfriend.'"

That's the "joke" Peter (Peter Evans) tells Tina (Ellen McElroy), his lady love, in Mark Rappaport's *Impostors*, made in 1979 and having a brief, belated Bay Area premiere next week.

Tina works as assistant to magicians Mikey (Michael Burg) and Chuckie (Charles Ludlam of the Ridiculous Theatrical Company), strange men with murder in their past who are searching for ancient Egyptian treasure. Chuckie is Gay, Mikey isn't, although they may be twins and/or lovers.

Peter, the lovesick swain, and Tina represent Swann and Odette in what Rappaport calls "an unholy union of The Maltese Falcon and Remembrance of Things Past." Peter's almost the only man in Tina's life, but she has several women as well.

Ludlam and Burg are nutcases who work well together. McElroy acts like Madeline Kahn trying to be serious and almost succeeding.

A number of scenes are set pieces strung together in seemingly random order; the plot is always secondary to the artificiality of the acting and visuals.

I was sometimes amused, more often bored. But no reviewer can tell you whether you'll like a cult director like Rappaport. His borderline camp wavelength isn't as narrow as some, but you'll have to check him out for yourself.

(York, June 13-14) S. Warren

Can She Bake A Cherry Pie?

Fruitless

Although his films are virtually never shown in theaters, Henry Jaglom has built a small cult with the likes of *A Safe Place* and *Sitting Ducks*. Having heard about him for more than a decade without seeing his work, I was curious about his latest, *Can She Bake A Cherry Pie?*

Now I know why Jaglom has a cult, and why it's small. His cinematic development was arrested around 1972. His style is naturalistic, his seemingly improvised dialogue paced by "realistic" dead spots and sometimes intercut with musical numbers.

The story, about two lonely people finding each other, is as original as the technique, and relentlessly heterosexual. The protagonists are forty-ish Karen Black, who could have a great future in soap operas, and fifty-ish Michael Emil, who could have a great future in soap commercials.

There's some good dialogue, but not enough to break the law of averages. The best scenes involve Michael Margotta as a cigar-smoking stud with a trained pigeon; he picks up women right in front of their male escorts and his own long-suffering female companion.

Unless you absolutely must see every moment Karen Black commits to celluloid, I don't know why you'd want to see *Can She Bake A Cherry Pie?* ■

(Cannery) S. Warren

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benzry

Friday-Saturday, June 8-9: (Strand) *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, My Dear*. Successful adaptation of the unusual play centering around the birth of Jimmy Dean's son via a Gay man. With Terms of Endearment.

Monday, June 11: (Strand) *Manhattan*. Woody Allen is divorced from his Lesbian wife, breaks up with his 17-year-old girlfriend, and goes out with his best friend's lover. With Broadway Danny Rose.

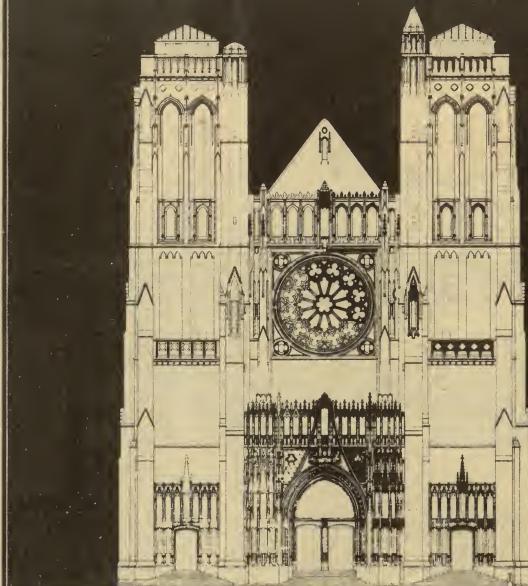
Thursday, June 14: (Strand) *Caligula*. Ten seconds of cock sucking, a Lesbian scene directed by the

publisher of *Penthouse* magazine, and interminable boredom. Don't waste your money.

Wednesday, June 20: (Strand) *La Cage aux Folles I & II*. The delightful story of two middle-aged Gay lovers, the marriage of their son, their involvement with the mob and escape to Italy.

Thursday, June 21: (Strand) *Fortune in Men's Eyes*. Young man goes to jail for minor crime and discovers the world of rape, punks, and sexual slavery. The real thing is not the stuff that erotic fantasies are made of. Cruising. Cop "pretends" to be Gay to solve violent Gay murders. Too much emphasis on Gay equals violence, none on a reasonable story line. Poor and still worthy of boycott. ■

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Hey Daddy! It's Auteur Porno!

by Morgan Ellis

Daddy Dearest is not just a porn film. It is an artful and intimate record of contemporary Gay culture. Almost a trademark of Arthur Bressan Jr.'s work, *Daddy Dearest* is a film within a film, telling the story of a porno film director making a movie about a New York University student and his erotic "daddy" fantasies.

Last Thursday evening was the world premiere of *Daddy Dearest*, featuring Richard Locke. Playing for the one night at the Century Theater, the showing was a benefit for the Lesbian/Gay International Film Festival. Introducing his film, Bressan praised the festival for its inclusion of erotica as a part of its schedule.

As articulate in person as their images are on the screen, Bressan and Locke fielded questions from the audience after the film.

Bressan was first asked about the humor in his film. He responded saying, "We hoped this film would have a light touch despite the preponderance of sex scenes. It was nice to hear a real audience of over 150 people getting some of the intended fun parts of the film. Sex is never as serious as it often seems in porn films."

Reflecting on the difference between making films on the west coast and the east, Bressan said, "In California, even Southern California where the LAPD holds sway, you can go out on Santa Monica Boulevard or go to the Plunge, and you say, 'I'm making a porno film. Would you be interested in being in it?' They don't look at you as if you are a terrible person. In New York, unless you go to a hustler bar, people look at you as if you raped your pet turtle."

One member of the audience cited how the performers looked like New York City types. Bressan said he intentionally cast for this look.

Asked to expand on his opening remarks about including erotica at film festivals, Bressan said, "Personally, I never have enjoyed being in a segregated cinema: where you go to one movie theater and see a Julie Andrews picture, and you go to another movie theater to see porno."

"The porno theaters are not at all as well-conceived or kept up as the Century in San Francisco or Los Angeles. Usually they are rather toilet-like, although that can have an ambience of its own. I have never particularly enjoyed having to segregate my cinematic feelings from my erotic feelings."

"That is why I really love the Century, because they cater to Gay men's sensibilities, erotic sensibilities and they put on a good show. I mean, this screen is incredible. Since you are paying your money, you might as well be treated like a good customer. It has nothing to do with politics, it's just common decency and good manners."

Asked about the relationship between he and the character of the director in the film, Bressan



Richard Locke (r.) and Arthur Bressan outside the Century Theater. (Photo: Rink)

said, "There is a lot of me in the film. When I made this picture, it was my first film in New York City. I was alone, I was thinking about a past lover, and inevitably I get turned on by at least one person in the cast. So it was slightly autobiographical."

"If you have seen some of my other pictures, I am obsessed by movies with movies, especially the porno genre. I always like to toy with the audience, showing them what they usually see, which is hot and fine and wonderful. Then I try and stretch the imagery, like in the fantasy scene with the lights, or the window scenes. So this format gives me a chance to experiment and try out different ways of presenting sex to people."

Asked to share their thoughts on Daddyism, Richard Locke said, "In my first movie they said something about the first time someone over 35 was in a Gay movie. The phenomenon right now is because of so many baby boomers who are middle aged. I never thought of it before as a younger person, because I played with people my own age and very seldom got out of that age group. Now, I am thoroughly enjoying it. Those kids in the film were tearing my clothes off. The Bay Area Reporter once called me the 'perennial daddy'."

Bressan said, "I guess I didn't know I was getting old until I read all the personal ads in *The Advocate*, and I realized I couldn't answer 90% of them because I had gone over the age limit. The actual idea for the daddy part of the movie came when I got some back issues of *Drummer*. I read these 'dear daddy' letters, and I thought they were charming, funny, and they were also sort of a turn-on in-between the lines. I thought it would be a good piece of Gay culture to put in a film."

"That is the genesis of it in this particular picture. The film went through several titles, before I chose *Daddy Dearest*. I chose it because people laugh when they hear it. So it helps lower their defenses. Several theater owners didn't like my other titles because they might incur the wrath of the police. So I worked that right into the script that we couldn't use *Fuck Me, Fuck Me Daddy*."

In discussing the casting of the handsome and hung Daniel Holt for the role of the director, Bressan told the audience, "This is a very strange part to cast, because this guy has sex with everybody in the film, either in his mind or for real. Normally I cast very romantic people, much more sentimental people. I wanted to find someone who could deal with the sex scenes, but not get too sappy about it. Daniel's professionalism turned me on to him. We shot the film in four days with the actors. This is also a reason why Richard is a mainstay."

Responding to a question about the AIDS situation, and if it made it more difficult to cast porno pictures, Bressan said, "I haven't found it to be the case. I think everyone is concerned. The models, some of whom are also hustlers, are concerned. Some of them have taken precautions. I don't think they have any better handle on it than any of us. I haven't seen any diminution of their interest in being in these films. This is their livelihood; this is how most of these men earn their living. For them it is sometimes art, but it mostly is rent and food on the table and whether they are going to take their lover out to dinner. Many have lovers."

Asked about what direction porno is headed, Bressan said, "The current rhetoric is that video will destroy porno theaters, which is exactly what people said about feature films when video first came out. What might kill porno is an unpopular or unfriendly climate in a city where they make it difficult for porno theater operators to advertise legitimately to their clientele. They are asked to get their buildings to way above code as a harassment. The police descend into the theaters, as often is the case, to psychologically or physically harass the patrons and lower the box office receipts. I think that is the biggest threat to porno theaters."

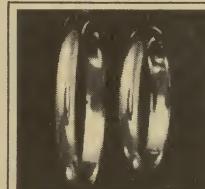
As for where porno movies are going, it comes in cycles. Every two or three years there is a new wave. Back in '77 no one had heard of William Higgins, now William Higgins is a very powerful force, with a whole California look to pictures. People come. They fade out and then new people arrive."

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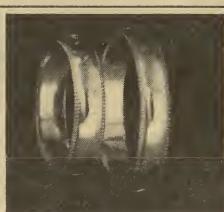
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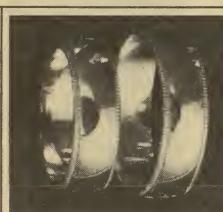
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Not Disco Camp

Gays Take a Big Hike

Ain't No Mountain High Enough for the SF Hiking Club

by Charlie Linebarger

Jim Jacobs, the former president of the San Francisco Hiking Club, talked about the club and its activities over lunch last week. Jacobs is an attractive young man who was raised in the Great Smokey Mountains. He lived for a time in Kentucky before coming to San Francisco years ago to take a job with the UC Medical Center. The SF Hiking Club, until two years ago, was the local subsidiary of Great Outdoors, a national organization for Gay hikers. The club broke away from the parent organization over disagreements in scheduling hikes. According to Jacobs, "They were into doing things that cost more money than we were willing to spend."

But not to worry, the things that the hiking club is doing now are plenty interesting enough. "My favorite hike," Jacobs said, "was to Barlow Flats at Big Sur. It's a real workout to get to the campground because the hiking trail goes up and down some steep inclines, but once you get there it's a beautiful place. We

camped along a small river, with a hot springs emptying into the river nearby.

"The hot springs is called the Sykes Hot Springs. The springs feed into the river and after hiking for 7-8 miles to get there it's the most wonderful feeling in the world to strip off your clothes

and jump into that water."

Another hike that Jacobs remembers is one to Anno Nuevo, the beach near Santa Cruz where rare elephant seals mate and have their pups. "We went to Anno Nuevo in March. I remember it was a beautiful, warm day, which was unusual for that time of year. We had about 20 people on the hike. It was wonderful — we got to see the birth of an elephant seal pup. The beach itself was packed with elephant seals. Some of them were just lying there in the sun enjoying it and some of them were sitting upright snapping at one another." (Elephant seals, which have the bodies of hippo-sized



Members of the San Francisco Hiking Club get psyched for a jaunt to Pt. Reyes.
(Photo: Rink)

G.S.L. UPDATE

Googies Rolls, Upsets the Kokpit

TOM VINDEED

Howard, wipe that smile off your face. It has been four days since your Googies boys scored their shocking upset of the Kokpit. Paced by the steady pitching of Dennis "Old Reliable" Woods, the Geary St. crew won a hard-fought 10-9 victory to hand the Kokpit its straight loss in league play.

After cleaning house in Seattle, and bringing home the first-ever Cascade Cup to San Francisco, the Ambush took on high-flying Rawhide and won again, 10-0. Terry Brooks pitched his first-ever shutout in the GSL. His cause was made easier by Mike Gray's and Joe Cunningham's homeruns.

Down by 3 runs going into the bottom of the 7th, the rejuvenated Cafe Sn. Marcos scored a stunning 15-14 victory over the ill-fated Phone Booth. This is

the third time this year the "Operators" have fallen in the last inning. "The Cafe" never led in the game. They fell behind from the outset, but timely hitting by Hal "Buffy" Herkenoff, Mike Tabeling, Rita and Donna Jane Fonda paced the Cafe to victory.

Moby Dick scored in only two innings, but it was enough for victory over the Village by a 9-7 count. Not the prettiest game ever played, but nevertheless exciting. John Larissi pitched a beautiful game for the Whalers. Hey Bobby DeTulio, you were great too!

Art Jackson's Pendulum Pirates, paced by Jim Jennings, defeated the Vagabond, 14-2. For three innings the Vagabond stayed close, but then the big boys unloaded and the Pirates

(Continued on next page)

slugs, were nearly hunted to extinction in the nineteenth century.

The hiking club sponsors four types of activities. First are day hikes, which leave around 8:30-9:30 a.m. on trails which take from 1-2 hours to reach by car. The hikes go anywhere from 5 to 15 miles during the day.

Car camping trips are usually overnights, but can be longer. They consist of driving to campgrounds that are accessible by car, arranging the campsite and then exploring on foot. A recent example was a trip to Pinnacles National Monument.

Backpacking trips, which can last from 3 to 4 days, require that you hike into your campground and carry everything you will need there on your back. The club also hosts functions, such as potluck dinners.

There are about 150 members of the hiking club, Jacobs said. Of these, at least 50 show up for the club meetings, which take place on the first Wednesday of every month. Films and slides of upcoming trips are featured and members sign up for trips which interest them.

Membership is \$15 a year, with additional fees for certain hikes to cover campground rentals, etc., and admission to some parks. While cars are necessary to reach most hiking areas, Jacobs said that most members

who wish to go on a particular hike can be handled by members who do have cars. The price of gas is shared.

Jacobs said just about every Saturday and Sunday there is a hiking or camping activity. A monthly newsletter is sent out to all members to let them know about the upcoming hikes and events. As for equipment, tents and sleeping bags aren't needed on day hikes, but when they are needed, members are expected to bring their own.

Jacobs added that the club doesn't like to see someone prevented from participating in a particular hike because they don't have a tent.

Once a month the club tries to have a car camping and a backpacking trip. The rest of the hikes are day hikes. "There are hundreds of places in the Bay Area to go on day hikes," Jacobs said, "and day hikes are always free to members."

"We're a group of mellow guys who enjoy the outdoors. We're talking about hiking and camping — this is as far from disco camping as you can get," Jacobs said. "This is an opportunity for people to see parts of California that they wouldn't normally see."

For more information on the San Francisco Hiking Club, write for a free newsletter to: San Francisco Hiking Club, 584 Castro Street #344, San Francisco, CA 94114. ■

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In Appreciation

The Mint and Tom Turner wish to express appreciation to all of you who supported the 1984 Great Tricycle Race. We wish especially to thank all the bars which participated. A special thanks also to all 60 of our Monitors, to Inspectors Gary and Ken, Judges Leona and Marlene, Nurse Naomi and Nurse Nina, Pacers Chuck and Trish, our Cigarette Lady Gladys Bumps, Jerry Prewitt for handling the button sales, Dixon for chairing the Swimsuit Contest, and to Bill Wood who helped so much at the Finish Line. And to my Co-Chairman, Monte Reddick, thanks. I couldn't have done it without you. And to those who entered -without you we would not have had a race. Thank You.

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RODGER SOTO

It's Arb and Scott Again!

On a warm and balmy Memorial Day the 13th Annual Great Tricycle Race was run again, and it was a tremendous success for fundraising as well as just having a damn good time. The CSL was extremely proud to have our two cyclists, Scott Kendrick and Mike "Arb" Arbnich, win first place for the third straight year in a row. This was the closest race yet, with our guys beating out Mark Robb and Michael Mulus (second) and Carlos Vargas and Eric (third) of Lake Merritt Hotel by a mere few seconds. Arb and Scott, who are both runners as well as excellent softball players, have run their tricycle in the Bay to Breakers race for the past two years with very respectable times. Scott has been a member of the CSL for the past eight years, playing on two championship teams (Oil Can Harry's and Cinch) and winning All-Star awards, the latest being Most Runs Batted In in 1983. Arb has been in the league for six years and has been on one championship team, as well as being an All-Star, the latest being 1983 Best First Baseman, as well as Top Batter of the Year. These two fine gentlemen have donat-

ed monies to the charity of the race and to the CSL all three years they have won. Three times the charm and thanks for representing the CSL so well.

I missed most of the softball of the past week, but as you can see by the scores and standings, we still have ourselves a horse-race, with only Hot & Hunky pulling out in front. The two hits of the day were homeruns by Hunkies' manager Mark Gordon and Gerald Hayden of Jack's Happy Daze. Special mention goes to the Bunkhouse for the first time taking first place away from the Cinch in the Chapman Division.

The CSL wants to welcome home one of our long-time friends and fans from her long and triumphant tour of Europe and the U.S.: Sharon McNight. Sharon is one of five persons who are lifetime members of the CSL. We caught her act at the Music Hall, and the shows were tremendous. Sharon announced that she will be doing the annual dog show on Castro June 10, which is for charity, and then will go into retirement to put her long-awaited play, Soph, together, which is based on the

life story of Sophie Tucker. Can you imagine anyone else playing that role? This play should make the name Sharon McNight a household word. Welcome home, Mama!

CSL SCOREBOARD

Bunkhouse	6	Jack's	5
Hot & Hunky	14	Cinch	5
Bunkhouse	7	Nap's	2
Hot & Hunky	12	Robin	8
Rainbow	5	Nap's	4
Slow Rush	17	Robin	1
Force	12	Slow Rush	12
Rainbow	7	Everett's	0

CSL STANDINGS

Julie Jordan Division	
Hot & Hunky	6-1
Nap's	3-4
Jack's	3-4
Slow Rush	3-4
Everett's SF	1-4

Bill Chapman Division

Bunkhouse	5-3
Cinch	4-3
Rainbow	4-3
Force	3-2
Rockin Robin	1-5

The games for June 10 are scheduled for Lang Field:

10:30 a.m. - Robins/Everett's and Nap's/Force
12 noon - Force/Hot & Hunky and Everett's/Bunkhouse

1:30 p.m. - Hot & Hunky/Bats and Bunkhouse/Slow Rush
3:00 p.m. - Bats/Jack's and Slow Rush/Cinch



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GOOD LUCK TO OUR CANDIDATE FOR MR. GAY S.F. VERN

TG WEDNESDAY NBL

Mal Garcia Honored

IGBO '84 Seattle is only a memory now. I will report on the accomplishments of the San Francisco competitors at the Fourth Annual IGBO Tournament in a future column. In the meantime, there were two distinguished awards presented to a couple of San Francisco bowlers which merit mention.

This year, the International Gay Bowling Organization created a new category to recognize the two persons who have done the most for Gay bowling around the nation during the previous 12 months. There were eight awards presented this year, to recognize two persons for every year of IGBO's history. One of these first eight distinguished awards was presented to Mr. Bowling of San Francisco, Mal Garcia of Park Bowl. We are proud that an international organization chose to acknowledge something that we S.F. bowlers have known for a long time: Mal Garcia is more than a good bowler.

Also, each of the two bowling establishments in which the tournament was conducted — Skyway Lanes and The Lewis and Clark Lanes — awarded a plaque to the bowler who bowled the highest game in its establishment during the tournament. Darrell Thomas, a TGWNBL Pendulum team member, was presented this distinguished award from The Lewis and Clark Lanes for his magnificent 247 game. Darrell, you must bring the plaque to Park Bowl so we can all see it (maybe it will bring us some luck).

The number of surprises in the local bowling scene certainly did not decrease because of the week off for IGBO '84. For instance, on May 16, John Parry of the crack Japantown Bowl team achieved an average two pins higher than his teammate Randy Peterson, who entered this season with an average 10 pins higher than John. Another surprise: Up to May 30, there

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

were only two teams, the Pilsner II and the Alley Cats, which could not boast of at least one 200+ game. After that date, there is only one TGWNBL team remaining without a 200+ game, and thanks to Phil Reiter's fantastic 209 bowled on May 30, it is not the Alley Cats.

While we are on the subject of high achievers, here are eleven 200+ bowlers who set a brisk pace for the rest of us on May 30.

J.C. Halsted (Swt Insp)	234
L. Kramer (Park Bowl)	233
M. Platiss (Grady's)	230
T. Belew (Cafe Sn Mrcs)	225
K. Ray (Plsn Pilks)	222, 200
R. Bremer (PWIL)	212
R. Edmunds (Animals)	211
L. Watson (Plsn I)	210
P. Reiter (Alley Cats)	209
A. Maggio (Plsn I)	201
S. Christian (Jptwn Bwl)	200

Where did you guys learn to bowl? It certainly wasn't the same place I did — darn it! ■

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS

TG MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 6 of 25 - as of 5/21/84) League Average: 693	21. Men's Room	7	17	18. Hr Tdy Gn Tmrw	12½	19½
	22. Team 22	0	24	19. Sweet Inspiration	12	20
				20. Trojan Ends	11	21
				21. Pilsner II	11	21
				22. Animals	5½	26½
TG WEDNESDAY LEAGUE (Week 8 of 24 - as of 5/30/84) League Average: 738	1. Park Bowl	23	9	TG THURSDAY LEAGUE (Week 7 of 20 - as of 5/17/84) League Average: 563	23	5
	2. Japantown Bowl	21½	10½	2. Four Winds	20	8
	3. Cafe San Marcos	20	12	3. Queen Mary's Pub	19	9
	4. Pilsner I	19½	12½	4. Alamo Sq Saloon #1	16	12
	5. Grady's	19½	12½	5. Pig Pins	14	14
	6. Play With It, Ltd.	19	13	6. Kokpit Angels	9	15
	7. DK's Unmntrbls	19	13	7. Alamo Square #2	1	23
	8. Anonymity Reigns	18	14	8. 132 Bush	0	20
	9. Plain Pintiss Sisters	17½	14½			
	10. Pendulum	17	15			
	11. Gay Sports	17	15			
	12. Stallion Stampede	16	16			
	13. S.F. Eagle	16	16			
	14. Scenic Hwy Tours	15	17			
	15. Wednesday Washouts	14	18			
	16. Alley Cats	14	18			
	17. Pilsner Potlickers	13	19			

Bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

bush will present its first-ever Softball Drag Game. The "Bushwackers" will play the Royal Family, starting at 8 p.m. on Lang Field at Turk and Gough. There will be a drawing for a VCR, and a percentage of the game's proceeds will also go to Ward 5B. Come join in the fun in what is sure to be a highly enjoyable evening.

STANDINGS

Cable Car Division

Ambush	9-0
Pendulum	7-1
Moby Dick	7-1
Rawhide	6-3
Chaps	3-5
DeLuxe	2-6
Phone Booth	2-6

Golden Gate Division

Village	7-2
Pilsner Inn	6-3
Kokpit	6-3
Cafe Sn. Marcos	3-5
Googies	3-5
Vagabond	2-6
Trax	1-8
Rookies	0-8

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Farewell Bluebirds

Some Thoughts on the Demise of the Sutro Baths

by Brian Jones

The electronic Bluebirds of Happiness are dead.

They'll warble no more. They've been gathered up, unplugged, stashed away in a box. The plastic tree limbs on which they perched, likewise, have been torn asunder.

There will be no more cozy fireside snuggles in the Couples' Room — no more hot breath fogging the glass outside the Voyeurs' Room — no more foot-games beneath the bubbles in the jacuzzi.

It's the last dance at the Sutro Baths.

It happened Friday night. Donna the Stripper, who also used to style hair at the Sutro, wriggled and writhed out of her clothes to the beat of "The Boy From New York City." Family-size bottle of baby oil in hand, the now-naked Donna slathered herself with the slippery stuff and executed a slow, seductive *pas de deux* as horrified TV

socio-sexual milieu that is — that was — San Francisco. Its passing is more than just another going-out-of-business sale. It marks the end of an era, a retreat in the Sexual Revolution.

"This is a very sad occasion for us," said Sutro owner Bill Jones. "We're losing something that really has been home for us for the last ten years . . . take a look around you. Places like this are part of the thing that makes the character of San Francisco what it is."

The Sutro was the kind of place Jerry Falwell or Phyllis Schlafly might have written about in a "What's Wrong With America Today" brochure, which is to say, it was fun. Not just sex, no — but fun. Looking around the whimsy of this place, the human touches, the lighting, the couches tucked here and there, the room with the fireplace, the patrons clad in flowing kaftans and black slinky, lacy things as well as towels —

'Donna the Stripper . . . wriggled and writhed out of her clothes to the beat of *The Boy from New York City*.'

news types, their cameras off, watched, whispered, and giggled.

The reporters didn't understand what was happening here. They didn't understand what this place was. They were like Muslims wandering into Canterbury Cathedral to get the gist of High Mass in 17 minutes. It can't be done.

A lot of people wouldn't understand the Sutro. It's the kind of place that prompts most Americans to cluck their tongues — then ponder what it would be like. For ten years, the self-styled "Bi-Sexual Bathhouse," first on Valencia, then on Folsom, filled a unique niche in the

you get the idea: Sex is fun here. Sex is good. Sex is clean.

As of late, it appears that sex has become deadly, too, and that's the rub. After peeling away 5,000 years of Judeo-Christian nasty-nasties designed to wrap human sexuality in a thick, wet blanket of impenetrable guilt; after an enlightenment that flashed only for a dozen years here in the second half of the twentieth century — we've run into this thing called AIDS. We ran into it hard, like a jogger and a brick wall, and we're laid out on the sidewalk with none of our wits about us.

The Sutro Baths was one of the high-water marks of that



Bill Folk (l.) sings as patrons burn "safe sex" brochures at the last party before the Sutro Baths closed last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

sexual liberation. Tourists go to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to experience the "high-water mark of the Confederacy" during the Civil War: "Ma — did they really get this far?" Likewise, it's a comforting fantasy — but only a fantasy — to imagine the Sutro on the National Register of Historic Places as the high-water mark of the Sexual Revolution. "Ma — did they really get this far?" "Yes, son. But that was a long time ago . . ."

So I'm sitting here on this overstuffed couch while a number of dipsy-doodly characters, real San Francisco, flit by — light of spirit, full of fun, apparently wishing harm to come to nobody or nothing. And I'm thinking, what if the world were like this?

Wasn't there a garden like this once?

Yes, but that was a long time ago. Wake up and smell the Eighties. The gentle souls are dropping dead left and right.

What this place is — what this place was — is slipping away.

That's the way it has to be right now, but we don't have to like it. And I hope we never apologize. Places like the Sutro represented a flowering of the human spirit — a part of the human spirit which lay dark for a long,

long time — a part of the human spirit which, again, is falling into eclipse.

The Bluebird of Happiness is dead. Long live the Bluebirds!

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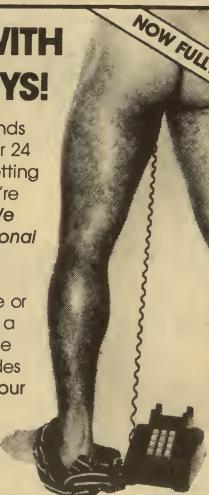
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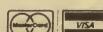
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Sign of the Times. The Sutro Baths announces its closing party, held last weekend.

BLACK LASHES



The Drag Races

KARL STEWART

The battle of the lower houses is nearly at an end. Saturday, June 9, will see a new King and Queen of Hearts (SF) crowned at the Rathskeller. Bucky and Crystal promise Candy will be nowhere in sight and Crystal will have several burly Tenderloin toughs guarding her at all times. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the ball will set you back a mere seven spot. If you care to make a choice for this title, voting will be held at the 222 Club at 222 Hyde, noon to 4 p.m. The choices include for King: Ray, Tim Domingo, Tony, and Mike D'Yuke. And for Queen: Darlene, Desiree, Michelle, and Davita. This has been a very stiff competition, and more than one of the above, in both categories, would suit the throne nicely.

And in this corner: Vern Stewart, Black Stallion of the SFGDI's, is firmly squared off against Bruce Harrelson, Imperial Secretary of State, in the

Mr. Gay San Fran bout. Tough deciding too for Miss Gay, where Parkay (also of SF-GDI's), Consuela, known to entertain at the Deja Vu, and Adrian, the hostess with the mostest at Church Street Station, are running wonderfully civil campaigns. The ball is Sunday, June 10, at the Cal Club, and is called Strutin' Speakeasy Style. Doors open at 7 p.m., with tickets at \$6 for general admission. Voting is that day at Castro Station on the Patio (yes they have one) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Michael and Trixie have set an exemplary trend for any titleholders to follow with their tremendous fun and fundraising. Lashes joins the entire court community in congratulating them.

Looking for something bigger? Try the Amazon Girl of 1984 for size — we're talking girls (!!!) six foot and over, and/or 200 lbs. Rumors have it the DQL, Francesca and Naomi



The fabulous Michelle and her escorts make the scene at the apres-La Cage party in the City Hall rotunda. (Photo: Rink)

Del Ray have hired him men to bump one another off, but I don't believe a word of it. The big show will be mounted at 10 Rogers (off Folsom near 8th) with the loft opening at 6:30 pm for a donation of a small five bucks. Miss Phoebe Planters is responsible for this one!!! Tickets are being peddled by the contestants, and Lashes understands there aren't many left. Call PP at 621-3152 for leads.

As a final gesture, Mr. Gay Michael and Cowboy Randy tossed the lasso aside and presented Hoedown last week. The Rathskeller was transformed into a (German) cowbarn with nine tons of sawdust on the floor (Tony will be picking up wood shreds for years to come). This event turned out to be family night as it wasn't well attended, probably because the ten buck chit just as the rent is due is prohibitive for most. But Linda and Western Electric played, and the crowd danced up a storm. Miss Ginger won the musical bar stool contest: now you know how she stays on top of "the throne" — she's pushy. It was suggested that we have a greased pig contest, but Miss Piggy forgot the crisco ... besides, she wouldn't part with her new blue jeans.

Larry Eppenett and Ron Ross both graced the sod with a dance or two, and the Saloon Girl contest was stiff as Lady Chris (QofH/N.Cal) and Desiree were edged out by Consuela. All the cowboys drooled over handsome blond Ron Wicker, who sashied away with both Best Dancer and Best Cowboy. Even with Randy's lengthy droning on the mike, a bit of disorder and weak cocktails, the boys and girls liked this little get-together.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Didn't we have fun Memorial Day weekend! The River was hot and steamy, the City was hoppin' and Monday was the Great Tricycle Race. This wonderful tradition brought us by the folks at the Mint, is a grueling five mile team race. CSL's Mark and Michael won, covering the course in a little over 45 minutes. First runner-up, from East Bay's Lake Merritt, was Carlos and Eric. Castro Station's hot shot Jim Baroni and his star bartender Maury Miller easily slipped into third place. Two of the tricyclists, Desiree and Rosebud, walked away with the best costume award as MC Nurse Nina sizzled on stage with her quips and style.

Next day, the town was madly primping for the West Coast Premier of La Cage. The luminaries and greats of SF Gay

society put on as dazzling a show as the tremendously talented cast. Michelle by far made the biggest splash in a white lace and tulle gown with a five foot train and attitude twice as long. She was described on the national news as "a Mae West Look Alike." Jessy showed up wearing his ribbon won for Hunk-of-the-Year at the Tricycle race; I might say deservedly so, too. Of course, the pre and post extravaganzas were made even more special as Remy played MC during arrivals and Hostess in the VIP suite at the City Hall celebration following the show. Terry Cullum served up some of his tasty hors d'oeuvres back there and the cast mingled and glowed. Lashes found many of the Cagelles (drag chorus) to be hard working pros, who've never done drag before. Rumor has it that Cagelle Michael McKee has been seen in the Arena (?!). His cast mate Eric Underwood is a living doll. We have ten weeks to explore the other 20 members.

Many surprises were offered up; Sylvester did a hot jazz set with David Kelsey and Pure Trash, and Sharon McNight offered some sassy tunes as a sample of her show this weekend at

the Great American Music Hall. The mind bender of the evening, however, was seeing Monte Reddick (as in Bay Area Typesetting/Coits) in a full tux. The DQL and Justin even made page 3 of the *Chron* the next day. Of course, the entire Royal and Imperial family attended: Marlena led a smart theater party of 25 or so, as Emperor Rich and Mame followed the Jaguar guys and Co. to a late, late after theater, after reception fete in that 18th Street loft lasting until dawn. It's going to take some pretty big talent to top Allan Carr's and Bobby Cramer's incredible Gay Charity Fundraiser. BRAVO, BRAVO!!

* * *

Coming up this weekend you will have a chance to meet the SF AIDS Foundation's new Exec/Direc., Friday, June 8, at 54 Tenth St off Market. The reception, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. will be a fundraiser, and donations of \$15, \$20 or \$25 are asked for. Call 864-4376 for more info.

Sunday, June 10 is the incredible Castro Street Dog Show and Parade, MC'd by our own Sharon again. Last year she dished up four solid hours of sizzle.

(Continued on next page)



What made Sonny win the Mr. Drummer contest at The Woods. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



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The lineup at the End Up jockstrap contest last weekend. Diamond John (l.) was the emcee, and the winner was Steve, second from right. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

zle and sass. Also mounting the stage are the rich talents of JoLo (formerly the Patrick Cowley Singers) with some hot new stuff, Jeanie Tracy, The Gay Men's Chorus and Skip Barrett's Ramblers will all entertain as well. Head for Hibernia Beach about 11 a.m. For more info or an entry form, call 861-2215. Don't forget to drop by the dunk-a-hunk booth; do we finally have a chance to get Miles Mitchel???

I see a bright Gay Freedom Day in your future. The Galleria will be swinging, and across the street Dr. Sanford and the I-Beam family will mount a two-day party, Saturday night and Sunday Tea. The End Up will have a Sunday Tea Dance too, which includes a three buck BBQ featuring ribs, chicken or links.

SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF MARKET

The Pilsner's burly bartender, Olin Sanders, is organizing a crabbing trip this Saturday, June 9. If you're up for a new experience, meet him at the Pilsner Inn at 8 a.m. It's BYOfood and drink (or whatever). Crab traps will be provided, and the men back at the Pilsner will host a crab feed for the trappers after-

ward on the patio. Olin is offering his skill and traps all free.

Also So/M Don Ramon's is still expanding; the upstairs dining room has been enlarged. They offer Howard Albertson on the keyboard during the dinner hour, Wednesday thru Saturday, and Leo and Jay and the kids are now open 'til 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Watch for Tony's new seafood bar opening soon. Caviche . . . I can hardly wait.

Rita Rocket and the Arena played host to troops of crazed rockers last Saturday. This was a fundraiser for the Dennis Yount Memorial Fund (a fund for Ward 5B out-patients). Dennis' roommate, David "Stella" Stoll, MC'd as tons of door prizes from all over the city were snatched up. DJ Leonamuzik kept the crowd hot, but Adam Rush singing "You Blow My Mind" . . . didn't. I'm told he's been in better voice.

June holds some run-fun in store too. The SFGDI's will depart for Lake Edson the 15th thru the 17th. We're told there will be some surprise guests at this one.

June 29, if you don't follow David Sarathain, you can join the CMC on its Great Western Traditions run down south. Call the CMC hotline at 821-3637 for

more.

Another tradition — congratulations to Read and crew on the fabulous Fickle Fox's 19th year. Monday's party had 'em jumpin'. The Fox is the SF Gay community's oldest Gay eatery at this point. Here's to many more anniversaries like that one.

See ya in the skins! . . . ■

K. Stewart



Grand Duchess Sable Clown (l.), Diamond John, and Desirée at the apres-La Cage party in the City Hall rotunda. (Photo: Rink)

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, June 7: Candidate Party, Vern Stewart Stewart for Mr. Gay SF, Men's Room, 8 p.m.

Friday, June 8: Meet James Ferels, reception for new Exec/Direc. of the SF AIDS Foundation, 54 10th St. (off Market), 5 to 7:30 p.m., donations \$15, \$20, \$25. Hors d'oeuvres, music, no host bar.

Open Meeting, SFGDI, Febe, 8:30 p.m., pre-run meeting, super raffle including RCA Video Recorder. **Reflex, Sundance Studio's Dance Theater premier,** 301 8th (off Folsom) #202, 8:30 p.m. Tickets, Headlines \$10. (performances also June 9, 14, 15, 16).

Grand Opening, Trax, 1430 Haight St., 5 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and champagne in honor of new owners Kent Smith and Bob Douglas. Continues through Sunday.

Sunday, June 9: Crabbing trip, an Olin Sanders production, meet at Pilsner Inn 8 a.m. No charge; traps supplied, BYOfood and drink.

Amazon Girl Contest, 10 Rodgers (off Folsom near 8th), 6:30 p.m., \$5. Audience balloting to choose a beauty 6 ft or over and/or 200 lbs.

Winners' Circle, after Amazon party, Village, 11:30 p.m. until ?

After Amazon Party, Ramrod, 11:30 p.m. until ?

King and Queen of Hearts Coronation, Rathskeller, 6 p.m., \$7 general

Sunday, June 10: Castro Street Dog Show, 11 a.m., Hibernia Beach, MC Sharon McNight, featured entertainers JOLO, also Jeanie Tracie, Gay Men's Chorus and Skip Barrett's Ramblers.

Parkay Party, Men's Room, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Voting for Mr/Miss Gay, Castro Station, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Struttin Speakeasy Style, Mr. and Miss Gay Coronation, Cal Club (1750 Clay off Polk St.), 7 p.m., \$6 general, tickets at Kokpit, Village, New Bell. **Arena Beer Bust,** 3 to 7 p.m., \$3. **Movies Saturday and Sunday.**

Phoenix UC Beer Bust, Uniform Contest, Eagle, 3 to 6 p.m., \$6, prizes for winners.

Monday, June 11: Castro Station Beer Bust, 9 to midnight, \$5.

Tuesday, June 12: Open Pool Tournament, Castro Sta., 7 p.m. checkin ■

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Bruce (r.) and Mistress Kathy at the Empress/Emperor de Motorcycling contest at Chaps last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

SWEET LIPS SEZ . . .

June Doings

DICK WALTERS

Special birthday greetings, today, the 7th of June to George "Ma" Perkins, who is 75 years young, and to the one and only

Anne B. Daley . . . may you both have many, many more.

A special welcome back to



Lips, Lorelei, and Lenny at the Closet Ball. (Photo: Polaroid Polly)

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San Francisco to John of Richmond, Virginia. You do realize Bobby has been waiting patiently for your return . . . have a good time while in our city.

It seems that Jesse, the manager of the Polk Gulch Saloon, was voted Hunkly of the year and is deserving of his title, right Dolly Dale?

This Saturday, the 9th of June, at the Rathskeller at 7 p.m., Bucky and Crystal, the reigning King and Queen of Hearts in conjunction with Empress Tessie, will have the crowning of the new King and Queen of Hearts. Tickets are \$7 and are on sale at the 222 Club and Kokpit . . . so get them early and join in the festivities.

On Sunday the 24th, Gay Freedom Day and Parade, the drawing for the trip to Puerto Vallarta for two (tickets at \$1 and still available) will take place at 10 a.m. at Googies at

688 Geary Street, so come on down and get your tickets now. Remember, you do not have to be present to win, but wouldn't it be fun if you were and your ticket was drawn . . . you can also take \$750 in cash in lieu of the trip.

The San Francisco Theatrical Club is presenting its annual show *Variety On Parade* on Sunday the 24th at 2:30 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre. Tickets are only \$7, right Helen?

Remember that this Sunday the 10th the Fourth Annual Dog Show and Parade takes place on Castro Street at 11 a.m. Stark and Dolly are entering their bitch, Trouble. Sharon McNight is the MC for this wild event — don't miss it.

Remember that the Gay Freedom Day Parade starts at 11 a.m. on Sunday the 24th of June. This promises to be bigger and better than ever.

BOOK RACK

Meat, No Blueberries Is Doing It Understanding It?

I Once Had a Master

by John Preston
Alyson Publications; \$7.95

by Marv. Shaw

Preston calls the third story in his collection "Education."

In it, a recent college graduate, who has gone to work for a sex research firm, comes to San Francisco for a convention of people in that field. He is quickly caught up in the leather S/M scene and taken on as an eager initiate.

He learns fast. The academically styled activities of the convention soon become artificial and boring to him. When he takes his two new leather buddies to a seminar, the three do an impromptu demonstration in the back row of the auditorium.

"Education" is the keynote to the story. Preston, who explains his development as a writer of pornography and the values of porn itself in an essay that concludes the book, obviously believes that explanation is irrele-

vant to understanding sex. You simply do it — and that's all you need to know.

Doing it is especially important for understanding S/M. The mind-body experiences the pain-pleasure, the power and submission, and what happens makes analysis immaterial. There is an appealing simplistic directness here. The overall reason for the book then is to explore the experiences, to reveal their values. Never mind the "why;" just pay attention to the "how" — or more often, "how much."

All the narratives are told first person. Therefore, they carry the authority vital for convincing S/M presentation. The style is lean and direct, as tough as the action. The action itself is pretty much standard, sexy S/M, but the details make it vivid enough

to be highly graphic. But what are the plots?

In the greater number of stories, Preston, who lets us see him grow into early middle age, is the master. He calls the shots, makes things happen. The happenings are hot sexual episodes in which domination, bondage, forced acts, pain, and sexual release are interwoven. The focus is almost always on how the slave looks, how he performs, how he appears to relish the fulfillment. And what else is there?

Not very much. The things we most often expect to find in short fiction — some demonstrations of how/why people change as they interact in this life — aren't there. Love isn't, though a couple of pieces skate close to infatuation. Ambition, pity, greed, respect, revenge — the staples of fiction across the centuries are all absent.

So if you're looking for Gay fiction with a range, this collection is not your pail of blueberries. But if you want to immerse yourself in the leather S/M world because you find it consistently stimulating, this is your meat.



John Preston, author of *I Once Had a Master*.

WILD AND WOOLLY

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He finds that a big cock is healing
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Preventing his face from congealing.

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And the vision of faggy grows worse,
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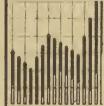
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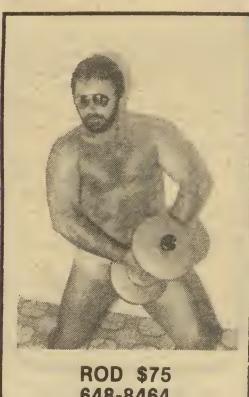
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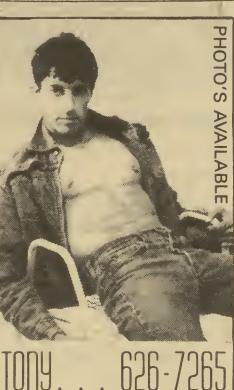
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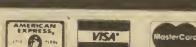
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